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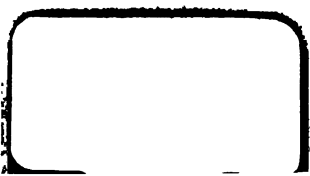
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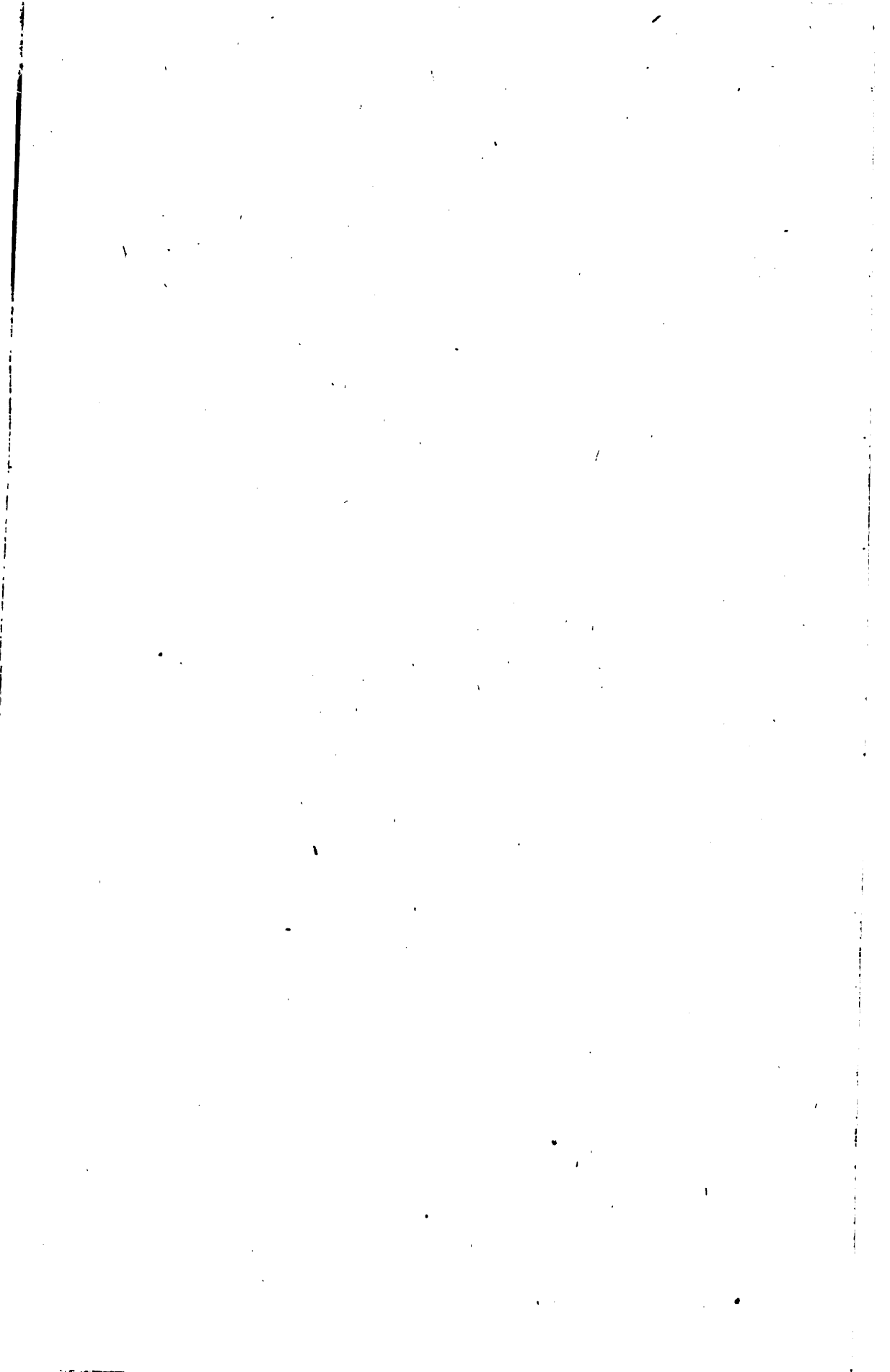
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DANIEL WEBSTER.

This portrait was painted by Chester Harding [1792-1866] in 1845, just after Mr. Webster's second election to the United States Senate. It, therefore, represents the great statesman as he appeared in his physical and intellectual prime, and at the very height of his popularity. It was painted for the late Samuel Bradford, of Boston, and subsequently became the property of the late Gen. James Lorimer Graham, both gentlemen being intimate, personal friends of Mr. Webster, as was also the artist, Mr. Harding. The portrait is now owned by C. J. H. Woodbury, Esq., of Lynn, Mass., who has very courteously consented to its reproduction for this work.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF
PREËMINENT AMERICANS

BY
FREDERICK G. HARRISON

WITH
One Hundred and Twenty Photogravure Portraits.

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VOLUME II.

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DANIEL WEBSTER.



HE "Great Expounder of the Constitution" was born at Salisbury, N. H., January 18, 1782. His father had been a soldier of the Revolution, and though standing high in the estimation of his brother farmers, who sent him to the Legislature, and made him a judge, yet found it a severe strain upon his limited means to provide an education for his two boys. Daniel, though destined to become a robust man, was not a strong child, and was too much disinclined to work for a farmer's boy; but a passion for books developed itself at a very early age. Such as were the advantages of the village school, he made the most of them. When fourteen he was sent to Phillips Academy, at Exeter; but remained there less than a year, completing his preparation for college under a private tutor. In 1797 he entered Dartmouth. He was very anxious that his brother Ezekiel, two years his senior, should also receive a collegiate education; but to support two boys at college, at the same time, was beyond old Judge Webster's power. Daniel was now able, however, to earn a little money with his pen, and by teaching; and thus Ezekiel was enabled to commence his studies. For several years the two brothers assisted each other as best they could. Determined effort brought success. Daniel took his degree in 1801, his elder brother some three years later.

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Upon leaving college, Daniel Webster at once began to read law at Salisbury; but was obliged to devote a portion of his time to teaching school, that his brother might remain at Dartmouth. In 1804 he came to Boston, and continued his legal studies in the office of Christopher Gore, afterward Governor of Massachusetts, declining the offer of a clerkship in the court of which his father was a judge. He was admitted to the bar at Boston, in 1805, and commenced practice in the little village of Boscawen, near his father's home in New Hampshire. After Judge Webster's death, in 1807, he removed to Portsmouth. He had already become fairly successful in his profession, was the author of numerous magazine articles and pamphlets, and had taken, as a Federalist, some slight interest in politics.

Mr. Webster was married June 24, 1808, to Grace Fletcher. The eldest son of this marriage was the lamented Colonel Fletcher Webster of the Twelfth Massachusetts Volunteers. Mr. Webster was nine years a resident of Portsmouth, attaining great distinction as a lawyer. He entered Congress as a representative of the anti-war party of New Hampshire, in 1813, and was re-elected two years later. While in Washington he had the misfortune to have his new house at Portsmouth, together with its entire contents, including his library, destroyed by fire. It was at this period that he began to practise in the United States Supreme Court. In 1816, finding his professional income insufficient to repair his losses, he bade farewell to his native State, and removed to Boston, with the intention of devoting his whole time to his law business in this new and more extensive field. From that time his name became identified with the fortunes of the old Bay State; year by year it gained added lustre until it overshadowed every other name in the great Commonwealth. At the age of thirty-six he had become one of the foremost lawyers of Boston, with an income of at least fifteen thousand dollars a year. He aided in the revision of the

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Massachusetts Constitution in 1820, and, in 1823, was once more sent to Congress.

Mr. Webster's fame as an orator was established by his oration at Plymouth on Forefathers Day, 1820. By this great effort, and by such subsequent ones as the oration at the laying of the corner-stone of Bunker Hill Monument, June 17, 1825, and the eulogy upon Adams and Jefferson before the Boston City Government August 2, 1826, he placed himself in the highest rank among the public speakers of all time. He continued to represent the Boston District until June, 1827, when he was chosen United States Senator. Hardly had he taken his seat before he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died in January, 1828. In the following year his brother Ezekiel, to whom he was tenderly attached, and whose advice he constantly sought, died suddenly while addressing a jury at Concord, N. H. Mr. Webster married his second wife, Caroline Le Roy, of New York, in December, 1829.

During the agitation consequent upon the nullification resolutions of the South Carolina Legislature, General Hayne, Senator from that State, made remarks in the course of debate reflecting very unfavorably upon New England, and especially upon Massachusetts. Mr. Webster defended his section and made some trifling allusions to the disloyal spirit manifested in South Carolina. Hayne followed with a long speech in which he reiterated his charges against New England, and went into a detailed discussion of the doctrine of nullification, which he defended with zeal. On January 26, 1830, Mr. Webster made his immortal reply, the most magnificent piece of oratory and argument that ever fell from American lips. It was an unanswerable plea for the Constitution and the Union, and was received with the greatest enthusiasm. The name of Daniel Webster was upon every tongue, and his popularity, especially at the North, became very great. In 1831 he purchased the estate at Marshfield, Mass., which

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had for some years been his summer residence, and which has since become so widely known. He expended large amounts of money in beautifying this farm, where the happiest of his leisure hours were spent.

During General Jackson's administration, the political opponents of the President assumed the name of Whigs; and with the Whig party and its distinctive measures, the tariff, the bank, internal improvements, Mr. Webster was henceforth identified. He heartily supported, however, the bill to give President Jackson the necessary powers with which to suppress insurrection. He was now freely spoken of as a presidential candidate, and, unfortunately for his own peace of mind, he allowed a desire to possess that high office to take too deep a root in his heart. He never received the united support of his party, although the electoral vote of his State was given him in the election which resulted in the choice of Martin Van Buren, in 1836. He contemplated resigning his seat in 1837; but was dissuaded by his friends from taking that step. That his earnest labors in the Senate, in behalf of the integrity of the Constitution, had endeared him to multitudes of the people, was shown by the enthusiastic reception accorded to him in New York and the leading cities of the West in the summer of 1837. Mr. Webster opposed the annexation of Texas, as well as all measures looking toward the extension of slavery.

In 1839, for the first and only time in his life, he crossed the Atlantic; and, in company with his wife and daughter, spent six months in Europe, principally in England and Scotland. In the ensuing presidential contest, that of 1840, his services as a campaign speaker were in constant demand, and were of value in convincing those thoughtful voters who were not susceptible to the "hard cider" enthusiasm. His seat in the Senate, which he had held for fourteen years, he resigned in February, 1841, having accepted General Harrison's invitation to enter the Cabinet as Secretary of State.

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By far the most important question which came within Mr. Webster's jurisdiction as Secretary of State, was the final adjustment of the boundary line between Maine and the British dominions, which had been in dispute ever since the treaty of 1783. This he effected, in conjunction with Lord Ashburton, the special ambassador sent from England for the purpose, by the treaty of Washington, which was ratified in August, 1842. In the fall of 1841, the other members of Mr. Tyler's Cabinet resigned, owing to their opposition to the President's financial policy. Mr. Webster shared their opposition; but deeming it unwise to interrupt the negotiations with England, he decided to retain his office until they were completed. This course met with Mr. Tyler's hearty approval, but was condemned by a portion of the Whig party.

Mr. Webster resigned the cares of office May 8, 1843, and retired to his seat at Marshfield, to enjoy a period of rest and quiet. He was now in somewhat straitened circumstances; indeed, it was his misfortune to be almost continually in trouble, financially. His professional income was at times very large, but was seriously interfered with by his public service; while, by mismanagement, and such expensive luxuries as his Marshfield farm, his estate became wellnigh exhausted. After a summer spent with his thoroughbreds, and in his favorite pastimes of boating, fishing, and shooting, for his passion for these enjoyments was still strong at three-score, he continued to devote himself to his private business until called upon, in 1844, to give his active support to the Whig nominee for the presidency, Henry Clay.

On the 5th of March, 1845, Mr. Webster again became a member of the National Senate. By his wise and prudent counsels, he contributed materially toward the peaceful solution of the Oregon boundary difficulties. In 1847, he made a tour through the Southern States, as far as Savannah, and was everywhere received with imposing public demon-

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strations. His constant position on the question of slavery had been that of a mediator between the extremists of both sections. He held that the Constitution gave Congress no right to interfere with the institution as it existed in the several States of the South, but opposed the acquisition of any new territory calculated to lead to its extension. The year 1848 brought sad domestic afflictions. In January, his son, Major Edward Webster, died in Mexico, in the military service of his country, and his death was followed in a few months by that of his sister, Mrs. Appleton.

In 1850, Mr. Webster took a step which was regarded by a large part of his friends at the North in a very unfavorable light. On the 7th of March in that year, he made a memorable speech in which he receded from his former position on the slavery question, and gave his support to the compromise measures, including the infamous law for the return of slaves who had made their escape into a free State. Before these measures were brought to a vote, however, he had ceased to be a member of the Senate. President Taylor died, July 9, 1850, and upon the reconstruction of the Cabinet, by Mr. Fillmore, Daniel Webster became, for the second time, Secretary of State.

It is pretty generally conceded that, in making his unfortunate surrender to the slave power, he was influenced by an honest desire to *prevent*, at all hazards, a dissolution of the Union; and the Union and its perpetuation form the great theme of all his public utterances during the two remaining years of his life. If his motive were in any degree personal; if he hoped by his course of action to better his chances for the presidential nomination, an honor which he was exceedingly desirous to obtain, his mistake was, indeed, a fatal one. He had offended his party, or at least a majority of it, and the Whig nomination of 1852, made in June, at Baltimore, went to General Scott. Mr. Webster was bitterly disappointed. He had been thrown from his carriage in

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May, and severely injured, and now his health began to decline rapidly. His popularity in Boston, however, remained undiminished. On the 9th of July he was accorded a public reception in that city, one of the most imposing ever given to any servant of the people, and which was participated in by men of all parties. He refused the English Mission, and would have resigned his position as the head of the State Department had not Mr. Fillmore insisted upon his retaining it. Early in September he left Washington for the last time, and went to spend the few days which were left to him, on his beautiful farm by the sea, the place of all the world most dear to him, and there he died, October 24, 1852.





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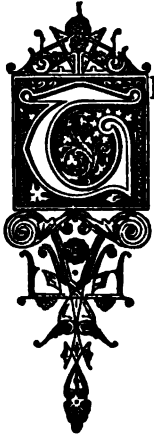


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THOMAS H. BENTON.

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THOMAS HART BENTON.



THOMAS H. BENTON was born near Hillsboro, N. C., March 14, 1782. He lost his father when quite young; but received from his worthy mother the best of mental and moral training. Under her care, and that of the New England schoolmaster, he was prepared to enter the University of North Carolina, but his college course was interrupted by the removal of the family to Tennessee. He did not, however, neglect his books; but gained, mainly by his own unaided efforts, a good knowledge of the law and of general literature.

He was among the most active in building up the new settlement which bore his own name, not neglecting, either, to sow a few wild oats in the neighboring town of Nashville. In due time he was admitted to the bar, and, in 1811, was a member of the Tennessee Legislature. Like the majority of Southern and Western people, he was strongly in favor of the war of 1812, and denounced the apparent disunion sentiment of New England. When, in after years, his party changed front, and themselves adopted boldly the same political heresy which the New England federalists had only whispered, he remained true to his original convictions, and was first, last, and always, a loyal supporter of the Union. He received a colonelcy, but history records of him no greater feat of arms than the duel, or more properly the tavern brawl with his commander, General Jackson. Benton was one of the few

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enemies with whom Jackson became reconciled. The affair was soon forgotten, and the two became warm friends and close political allies.

After the close of the war, Benton removed to Missouri, which he made his permanent home. He quickly assumed a prominent place in the St. Louis Bar, established a newspaper, and plunged into politics. The caustic utterances of the "Missouri Inquirer" involved him in many of those personal encounters incidental to the life of a journalist in a frontier district; but he was enabled to acquire a controlling influence in the Democratic party of Missouri, and that influence he continued to exert for upwards of a quarter of a century. Missouri was admitted in 1821, and Mr. Benton took his seat as one of the first pair of senators from the new State. He retained it for the extraordinary period of thirty years.

His early labors in the Senate were mainly devoted to the interests of his section; the extension of the territory of the United States toward the Pacific, and the development of our vast Western domain. He favored the protective tariff, introduced by Clay in 1824, but was averse to governmental interference with internal improvements, which he deemed to be strictly within the sphere of the several States. He found much fault with the lower House for its action in the choice of John Quincy Adams for President, against the clearly expressed preference of the people for Jackson; but refused to believe in the alleged underhand dealings between Adams and Clay. As the leader of the Jacksonians in the Senate, he neglected no opportunity to oppose the Adams administration. One of the most important measures which he originated, and which met with success after some years of opposition, was the law providing for the sale of public lands to actual settlers at a low price. Of course he was in accord with the general policy of President Jackson, but it stands recorded to his credit that he was opposed to the in-

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discriminate expulsion of public servants from office, solely on account of their political faith. His strong Union sentiment led him to denounce the attempts made by South Carolina, in 1832, to nullify the national tariff laws, and he heartily approved of the course of the iron-willed President in dealing with that contumacious State. Indeed he joined with Webster in opposing Clay's compromise measures on the tariff, being unwilling to make any concessions, however proper they might be in themselves, so long as South Carolina's insolent threats of secession were not withdrawn.

During the controversy in regard to the United States Bank, or the "Bank War" as it has been called, Mr. Benton was the President's right-hand man in the Senate. Although he could not prevent the passage of the bill for the recharter, he easily marshalled a sufficient minority to sustain the president's veto. Later on, when Jackson, now impreguably fortified by a triumphant reelection, went so far as to deal one last blow to the expiring bank by the removal of the United States deposits, Benton still clung faithfully to his chief, though temporarily overborne by the formidable coalition of Clay, Webster, and Calhoun. Jackson's conduct was formally censured by the Senate, but Benton at once gave notice that he should move to have the resolutions of censure expunged from the records. Before the close of the administration he got a majority to back him, and the obnoxious resolutions were blotted out, literally, much to the mortification of the great trio of statesmen who had formulated them, but to the President's intense delight. During the progress of the bank debates, and subsequently, Mr. Benton took so firm a stand in favor of a metallic currency, that he received the popular nickname of "Old Bullion." He opposed the distribution of the surplus with which the United States Treasury was troubled, and favored using the money on coast defences. He also introduced a bill to compel purchasers to pay for public lands in specie, as large amounts

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of very doubtful State Bank bills were accumulating in the treasury. This bill failed to pass; but the great advocate of honest money gained his point in another way. President Jackson, upon his own responsibility, issued the well-known Treasury Order, which was drawn up by Benton, forbidding Land Agents to receive anything but gold and silver in payment for land.

Like many other Southerners, he anticipated the peaceful abolition of slavery at some time in the distant future; but, like all Southerners, he hated the Northern abolitionists, who wished to put an immediate end to the system, at no matter what cost, and he had flattering words of praise for the mobs that broke up anti-slavery gatherings at the North. His course in opposing the ultra pro-slavery measures of Calhoun and his tribe, redounds the more to his honor as we compare it with that of the Northern apologists for slavery,—Buchanan, Van Buren, and many others,—who humbly followed where Calhoun led. As Benton had served Jackson, so he continued to serve Van Buren, Jackson's political heir and successor, and was the champion of the most important measure of his administration, the independent treasury act. By this act, which is still to all intents and purposes in force to-day, essentially as it finally passed in July, 1840, after once suffering defeat in the House, the money belonging to the United States passes from the hands of the collectors of revenue, or customs, into the custody of United States officials, and is secured under lock and key in the sub-treasury vaults in the great cities, or in those of the Treasury itself at Washington, until it is paid out to meet the needs of the government. Benton successfully opposed, against Webster and Clay, the proposition to have the Federal government assume certain poor debts of some of the States.

In 1841 there was a Whig majority in Congress and a nominal Whig in the presidential chair. Benton continued to be the leader of the Democratic minority; but was unable

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to prevent the passage of the favorite measure of the dominant party, the bill for the establishment of a National Bank, or "Fiscal Corporation," as its promoters were now forced to call it, in the vain hope of winning Mr. Tyler's signature. To the indignation and disgust of the Whigs, that signature was persistently withheld; but Mr. Tyler, while thus forfeiting the esteem of the one party, failed to reingratiate himself with the other. Mr. Benton was intensely American, devoted with all his heart to the well-being of the whole country, and favorable to its aggrandizement. And yet, to what his enemies were pleased to call an abandonment of the just claims of the United States on two memorable occasions was due, indirectly, the loss of that preëminence in political life which he had so long enjoyed. He had long favored the acquisition of Texas; but when he saw that the slaveholders coveted not only Texas, but a large portion of Mexico as well, wherein to extend their darling system, he opposed the treaty of annexation in 1844, thereby incurring the hatred of the Calhoun wing of his party, who branded him as a traitor to the South. After the failure of the treaty, a convention of disunionists from the slave States was proposed; but, owing in great measure to Mr. Benton's opposition, it came to nothing at that time. Again, Mr. Benton regarded the claims of our country upon the territory known as Oregon, reaching from California to Alaska, to be far superior to those of Great Britain, by whom they were contested; but deeming it unwise to risk a war with that powerful nation, he favored the Buchanan-Packenham treaty, by which the United States yielded her claim to the greater, but less valuable, portion of the Territory. This course met with a storm of abuse from the Northwest. By fearlessly doing what he considered his duty in these instances, he alienated from himself a large section of the Democratic party, the section which came into power with Mr. Polk.

Powerless to prevent the Mexican War, he advocated its

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vigorous prosecution, and lauded, in his most eloquent strain, the valor of the American troops under Taylor and Scott. It is even said that he would not have refused the chief command of the army which it was by some proposed to confer upon him; but it is probably fortunate for his reputation that this project was not carried into effect. The war ended, and California and New Mexico annexed, the champions of slave labor found that the North was not disposed to stand calmly by and see the soil of the new territories, already free, polluted by the introduction of slavery. Once more the cry of disunion was raised at the South. It was terrifying to Northern politicians, Whig and Democrat alike. The greatest among them all, Daniel Webster, hastened to propitiate the secessionists by ignobly yielding to them. Thomas H. Benton, immovably fixed in his loyalty to the Union, fearlessly denounced the secession movement, and deprecated the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, as an insult to the North. He was honored with the hatred of Calhoun and the other pro-slavery leaders, and, at last, he was rejected by his own State.

Missouri had upheld him for thirty years; five successive times had he been chosen to represent her in the Senate. He was a candidate for the sixth term, but the separatist party now controlled the State, and he lost his election. He retired from the position which he had filled so long and so ably, in March, 1851; but he could not remain idle. He now took up the task of writing an account of the men and measures of his times, and he subsequently published, as the result of these labors, his famous "Thirty Years' View," a book which is still read with interest, although we are now happily far removed from the troubled times of which it is a history. He favored the election of Mr. Pierce, but soon learned to despise him for his subserviency to the slave-power, for what he characterized, in his peculiar bombastic phrase, as his "undaunted mendacity, moral callosity, and mental

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obliquity." In 1853 Mr. Benton again entered Congress, this time as a member of the Lower House; but his manly stand against the Kansas-Nebraska Bill ruined his chances for reelection.

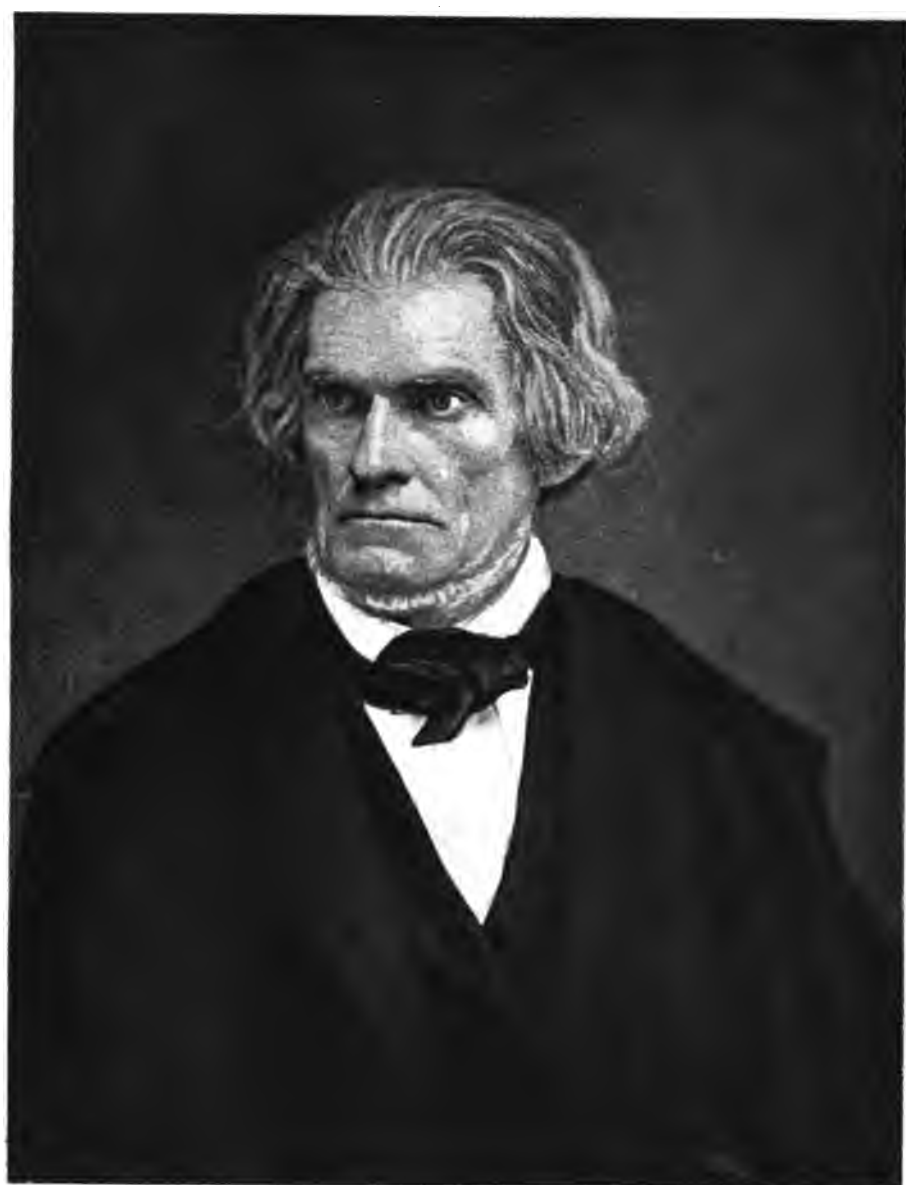
While uncompromising in his opposition to disunion and the extension of slavery, Mr. Benton remained to the last a Democrat, casting his vote in 1856 for Buchanan, although the Republican candidate, John C. Frémont, was his own son-in-law. Mr. Benton was at the same time a candidate for the Governorship of Missouri, making an active canvas of the State, though now seventy-four years of age. He was defeated and so ended his political life. He visited New England during this same fall; addressing respectful audiences, and warning the people against the disloyal schemes of Southern politicians.

Mr. Benton was a man of ceaseless activity, continuing his literary labors almost to the last moment. In addition to the work already mentioned, he published an abridgment of the Congressional debates. His death occurred at Washington, April 10, 1858. In honesty of purpose, in purity of character, in devotion to the best interests of his country, he has not been excelled, and he may safely be taken as a model for American statesmen.





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JOHN C. CALHOUN.

From a portrait by Hix, in the South Carolina State Library
at Columbia. Living persons who remember the
greatest citizen of the Palmetto State,
pronounce this a perfect likeness.

JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN.



JOHN C. CALHOUN was born in the Abbeville District, in South Carolina, March 18, 1782. Thus only two months intervened between the birth of this apostle of nullification and disunion, and that of his great antagonist, Daniel Webster. Henry Clay, the third member of the famous "triumvirate" was five years their senior. Calhoun's father, who had emigrated from Ireland when very young, was a rough frontier farmer, an Indian fighter, and revolutionary soldier, and was inclined to regard a classical education with a certain degree of contempt, so that his son John had learned little more than the simple rudiments when he reached the age of eighteen. After his father's death, however, an elder brother, recognizing his unusual talents, had him sent to an academy, where in two years he advanced so rapidly in his studies that, in 1802, he entered the Junior Class at Yale, and in 1804 he graduated. He then studied law, at first at Litchfield, Conn., and subsequently at Charleston, and was admitted to the South Carolina bar in 1807. It soon became evident that he possessed in most ample measure those qualities of mind which would fit him to mould the opinions and control the political action of the masses. He rose very rapidly in the estimation of his fellow-citizens, and his election to the State Legislature proved to be but the stepping-stone to positions of wider influence and greater

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JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN.

dignity. Throughout his entire life he continued to be an object almost of idolatry to the people of South Carolina. Imperious, enthusiastic, and possessed of wonderful powers of argument, he was eminently qualified to "fire the Southern heart." In the fall of 1810 he was elected to Congress by a large majority. In the following year he married a cousin, whose fortune was a valuable addition to his own somewhat limited means.

Mr. Calhoun's service in the National House of Representatives began in November, 1811, at the extra session convened by President Madison on account of the threatened war with England. Henry Clay, then just chosen speaker, placed him on the Committee of Foreign Affairs, and he supported the resolutions in favor of the war with great force and eloquence. He soon became chairman of his committee; but declined the speakership upon Mr. Clay's resignation in 1814. He showed his characteristic independence by opposing the Embargo, which was favored by almost all of the other Democratic congressmen. He was twice reelected to Congress, in 1812 and 1814. After the close of the war he became interested in questions of finance, was appointed chairman of the Currency Committee, and, in January, 1816, he reported the bill for the charter of the United States Bank, which became a law three months later. He also supported in the same year, a protective tariff bill, which has since been designated by his name; and, among his latest utterances in the House of Representatives, he favored the construction of roads and canals by the Federal Government. It will be seen that his position at this time upon these questions of public policy was diametrically opposed to that adopted by him in later years when he had conceived the fatal dogma that the general welfare of the whole country meant ruin to the South. For the adoption of this dogma by the statesmen of his section, and for its terrible consequences in a later generation, Calhoun stands condemned at the bar of public

JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN.

opinion. A bill changing the salary of congressmen from six dollars a day to fifteen hundred dollars a year, which received Mr. Calhoun's support, was regarded by the people of the country in the light of a "salary grab," and nearly every member who voted for the bill failed of a reelection. Mr. Calhoun's personal popularity was so great that he easily overcame the slight opposition that was made to him, and he was elected for the fourth time. But he resigned his seat before the meeting of Congress, in 1817, having accepted the office of Secretary of War from President Monroe.

It was against the advice of friends that he entered upon this new field. He was without previous experience in military matters; but soon rendered himself familiar with the duties of his department, and conducted its affairs ably for eight years. As the presidential election of 1824 approached, six candidates appeared to solicit the suffrages of the people, among them Mr. Calhoun. One of the number died, and Mr. Calhoun withdrew his name before the election; no one of the remaining four received a majority of the electoral vote; but Mr. Calhoun was elected Vice-President by a handsome majority, and took the oath of office in March, 1825.

He made a dignified and generally acceptable presiding officer; but for no very well-grounded reasons was unfavorable to the policy of President Adams. In 1828 he was reelected, entering upon his second term of office at the commencement of Andrew Jackson's administration. For a while there was apparent harmony between the two highest officers of the nation; both were Southerners, both had been elected on the same ticket, and were supposed to hold the same political opinions. But the harmony was soon to be broken, and a breach to be opened between the defender of the Union and its would-be destroyer which time would not heal. Mr. Calhoun, with the great majority of the Southern people, now opposed the protective tariff; attributing to its

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operation that marked difference in prosperity between the manufacturing and cotton-growing sections of the country, which was in reality due to the indolence of the Southern people themselves, induced by their evil system of cheap slave labor. This political blunder led to his great political crime, the advocacy of the doctrines of nullification and secession. This stain upon the name of John C. Calhoun is indelible; his wise statesmanship and his integrity of character are forgotten, and he is only remembered as the foremost champion of disunion and armed resistance to the authority of the United States. General Jackson's well-known indignation, at the course of South Carolina, was visited in full measure upon her most prominent son. Henceforth President and Vice-President were enemies. General Jackson ever afterward regarded Calhoun as a traitor. He was, with difficulty, dissuaded from causing his arrest, trial for treason, and execution, and is said to have expressed regret upon his death bed that he had not persisted in so doing.

While South Carolina was preparing for rebellion, she elected Mr. Calhoun to the United States Senate, and, having resigned the office of Vice-President, he took his seat in that body in December, 1832. Here he continued to uphold the action of his State, until, moved by the threats of the President and the persuasive influence of Henry Clay, he yielded a reluctant consent to the compromise measures by which quiet was once more restored to the nation. Mr. Calhoun's opposition to the administration now forced him into the singular position of a semi-alliance with the Whigs; but his subsequent action was largely independent of party. He was reelected to the Senate in 1835.

As Mr. Calhoun was largely to blame for the spread of the nullification and State Rights heresies, so also was he for the unhappy agitation upon the subject of slavery, which kept the country in an uproar for the remainder of his life and for a decade after his decease. He opened the discussion

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in January, 1836, by his motion to reject the petitions of abolitionists, and he never ceased adding fresh fuel to the flames of discord. He did not actively promote the election of Mr. Van Buren in 1836, but gave countenance to the leading measures of his administration, especially to the Sub-Treasury Bill, and, in 1840, supported him in his unsuccessful contest with General William H. Harrison. During the eight years from 1833 to 1841, Clay, Webster, and Calhoun sat together in the Senate. Never, before or since, has such a combination of greatness appeared in that august body, except when, in 1849, the same three great master minds again met, for a brief period, in the arena of debate. Mr. Calhoun entered upon his third senatorial term in 1841, but resigned his seat in March, 1843, and retired to his home in South Carolina, partly to arrange his disordered private affairs, and partly to look after his interests as a candidate for the presidential nomination. It was an honor which he had long and eagerly coveted; but though he received the unanimous support of his faithful State, he met with little favor outside of it, and suffered a like disappointment with his two famous compeers.

He had already given up the contest and withdrawn his name, when he received the appointment of Secretary of State, March 6, 1844, at the hands of President Tyler. His chief duty was to continue the negotiations for the treaty of annexation with Texas, which had been begun by his predecessor, Mr. Upshur, who was killed by the explosion of the *Peacemaker*. The treaty was rejected by the Senate; but the President and his wily secretary concocted the "joint-resolution" scheme, which made Texas a part of the United States. At the close of Mr. Tyler's administration, Mr. Calhoun declined the English mission, tendered him by Mr. Polk, and returned to the Senate; the nonentity who had succeeded to his seat being caused to resign.

The personal character of the Great Nullifier was less

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open to reproach than that of his rivals, Webster and Clay, and his ambition was confined within straiter bounds. It is a matter of profound regret that he should have used his great talents so selfishly for the benefit of his own particular section instead of for the welfare of the whole country. Had he pursued the more noble course, he might have made for himself a name second to none in the annals of American history. But as long as there remained any strength in his tottering limbs, he stood in his place, the champion of the arrogant demands of the South. In his last speech, which was read March 4, 1850, by Senator Mason of Virginia, he being too feeble to deliver it himself, he demanded the complete surrender of the North upon the question of slavery as the only means of preventing the dissolution of the Union. He died at Washington on the last day of March, 1850, and the dread arbitrament of war has since determined, that the principles for which he contended during the best years of his life were pernicious and wrong.





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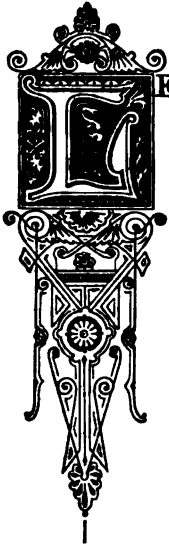


WILLIAM
CLARK
WHEELER

LEWIS CASS.

Portrait by Burdick, after an original by Healey, in the possession
of a Miss Trowbridge, of Detroit, Mich.

LEWIS CASS.



LEWIS CASS was born at Exeter, N. H., October 9, 1782. One of his earliest recollections was the celebration, in 1788, of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. To the Union, which was at that time confirmed, he ever remained a faithful friend. After acquiring a respectable education in the Academy at Exeter, he taught school a short time in Wilmington, Del., and was there seized with the Western fever, and went to Ohio, with his father's family, studying law at Marietta, and aiding his father to make a clearing at Zanesville. He was the first lawyer admitted to the bar in the State of Ohio. In 1804 he became prosecuting attorney for his county. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1806, somewhat before attaining the legal age of twenty-five. Burr was at that time hatching his treason. The forces for his mysterious expedition were to gather at an island in the Ohio, not far from Marietta. The governor brought the strange affair to the notice of the Legislature, and Cass was one of the committee of investigation. He drafted the bill which authorized the governor to disperse the gathering. He had by this time got together a little property, built himself a fair log-house on his father's farm, and had married. He was appointed United States Marshal, in 1807, by President Jefferson.

LEWIS CASS.

The war of 1812 broke out, and President Madison called for troops. The quota of Ohio was three regiments, of one of which Cass was commissioned Colonel. He took command of his regiment at Dayton, in May, and soon marched toward Detroit under General Hull, arriving there July 5. A few days later the army crossed into Canada, and Cass was the first to step on the enemy's soil. Confident of the weakness of the British position at Malden, he urged Hull to attempt its capture. But Hull was timid and hesitated. However he allowed Cass to make a reconnoissance, and in an engagement with the British outposts Cass had the honor of winning the first victory of the war. Hull continued to dally until it was too late. The enemy was reinforced, and the Americans were obliged to recross the river, and seek the shelter of Detroit. The British opened fire upon the town, and on August 16 came the disgraceful surrender to an inferior force which has called the blush of shame to generations of Americans, and handed Hull's name down with infamy. Cass was not in the fort at the time, being detailed to convoy some reinforcements which were approaching; but he found himself included in the surrender. He was released on parole, and went to Washington. In February, 1813, his parole being removed, he was appointed a colonel of regulars, and, soon after, brigadier-general. He bore an active part in the campaign of 1813, and was present, as aide to General Harrison, at the battle of the Thames.

October 29, 1813, General Cass was appointed governor of Michigan territory. He resigned his military commission in the following April. His office of governor he held for eighteen years, during which period he labored incessantly to Americanize that section of the country. A large portion of his time was occupied in Indian affairs. He made treaties with the savages, and by his just and honorable conduct completely gained their confidence. He had to contend against British influence which sought to make the Indians

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discontented with the United States government. This influence was a source of constant annoyance, and his powers were taxed to the utmost in contending against it. He retained throughout his life an aversion to the English people on this account. June 6, 1820, he was at Sault St. Marie, holding a council with the Indians, some of whom even wore British uniform. After a while the Indians left the council in anger, retired to their own camp, and hoisted the British flag. Refusing any assistance, Cass went alone and unarmed, and tore down the flag. The savages were overawed by this display of courage, and soon signed the treaty which Cass offered them. Under his efficient government the territory advanced in prosperity. In all his dealings he was scrupulously honest. The great State of Michigan is very largely indebted, for its present prosperity, to the exertions of Governor Cass.

His long service came to an end in 1831, when he was appointed Secretary of War by President Jackson. Upon him devolved the duty of making the necessary preparations to put down the threatened rebellion in South Carolina. He accompanied the President in his Northern tour in 1833. The two were very firm friends, so much so, that Jackson insisted upon keeping Cass in the Cabinet, in spite of the fact that he differed with the President on the question of the removal of the deposits. In June, 1836, he was appointed Minister to France.

A long controversy between France and the United States, arising out of the claims of the latter government for damages caused to American vessels during the time of Napoleon, had resulted in the previous year in a mutual recall of ministers. Cass, being uncertain of a favorable reception in France, sailed for England in October, 1836; but soon proceeded to Paris. In 1837 he made a tour to Greece, Constantinople, Palestine and Egypt, in the frigate *Constitution*. His health which had been affected by his

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long public service was much benefited by this pleasure trip to the East.

His mission in France lasted six years. Having now ample means of his own, he lived in a style befitting the representative of a great country. In 1842, he entered a protest against the participation of France, in a treaty with England and other European nations, for suppression of the slave-trade. The treaty was rejected by France. He was so much displeased with the Ashburton treaty, that he quarrelled with Mr. Webster, and resigned his position. He arrived in Boston, December 6, 1842. He was well received by the people, and immediately brought forward as a candidate for the democratic presidential nomination. But the nomination went to Polk to whom he gave his support.

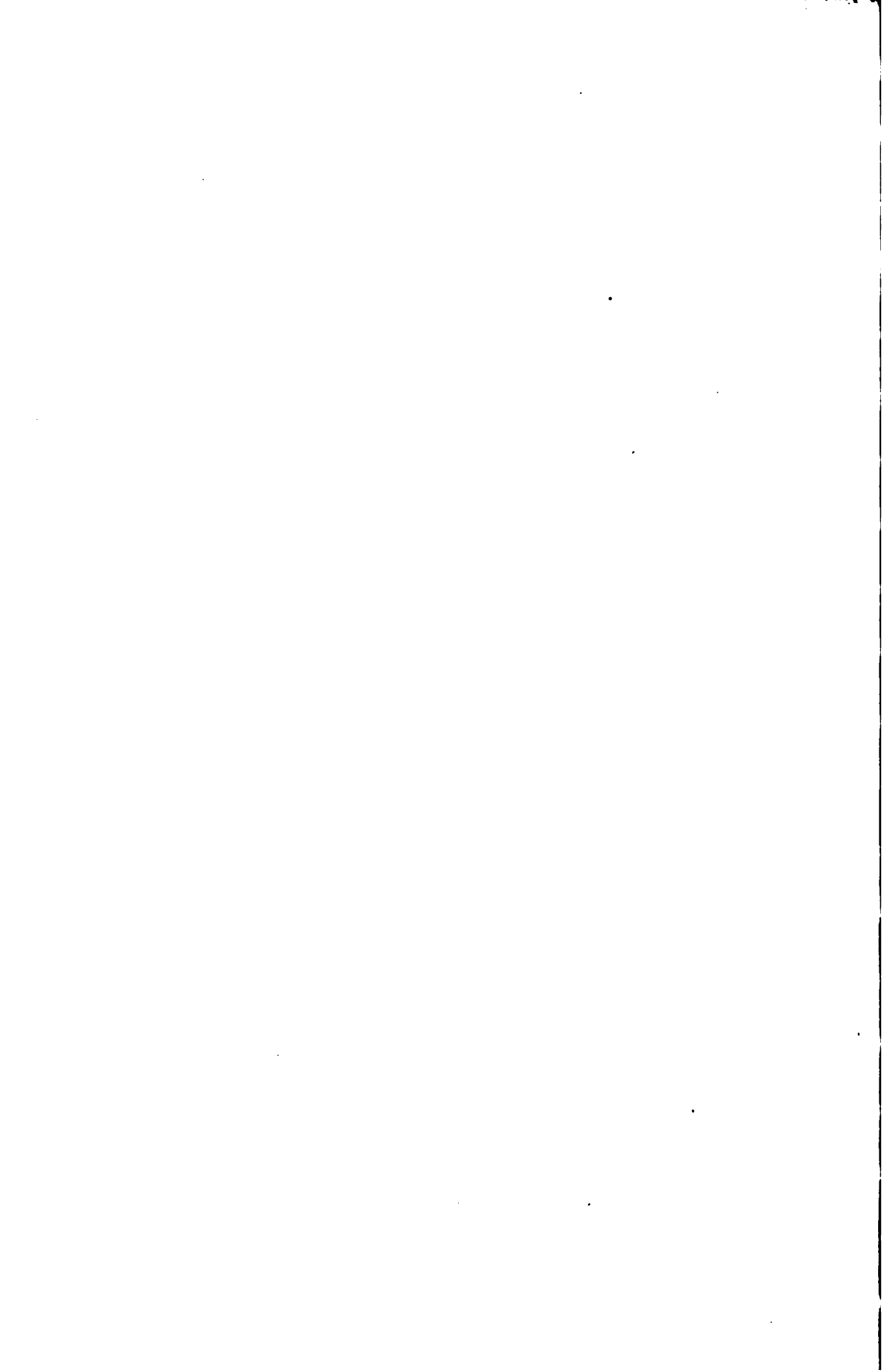
Mr. Cass entered the United States Senate in 1845, representing the State of Michigan, and took his place as a democratic leader. Having the cause of the Northwest ever at heart, he favored claiming the whole of Oregon, fixing 54° 40' as the northern boundary. When the matter was compromised with England by the treaty of 1846, and the 49th parallel accepted as the northern limit, Cass opposed the confirmation of the treaty. He was the regular democratic nominee for President in 1848, Mr. Van Buren being the choice of the Free Soil wing. But both had to stand aside for another military hero, General Taylor. Mr. Cass, who had resigned his seat in the Senate, was reelected to fill the vacancy he had himself caused in January, 1849. He was instructed by the Michigan Legislature to vote against the introduction of slavery into the territories. Having threatened to resign rather than comply, the instructions were withdrawn. He supported the Clay compromise measures of 1850, which included the Fugitive Slave Law. He was reelected, at the close of his term, in 1851, by a very complimentary majority. In 1854, he gave his support to the final act of submission to the South, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill,

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by which all restrictions upon slavery in the territories were swept away. The indignation which this measure aroused at the North resulted in the formation of the present Republican party. Mr. Cass's own State entered heart and soul into the new movement from the very first. He was instructed by the Republican Legislature of Michigan to vote for a repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, and for the prohibition of slavery in the territories, but peremptorily refused to obey. This action completely alienated the sympathies of the people of Michigan, and, in 1857, he was defeated for reelection to the Senate, by Zachariah Chandler.

When Mr. Buchanan became President in 1857, Mr. Cass was appointed Secretary of State. He did not, however, fall in with the treasonable schemes that were concocted in the Cabinet. When Buchanan refused to do his duty, and send sufficient garrisons to the forts on the Southern coast, to prevent their falling into the hands of the insurgents, Mr. Cass resigned his office; but though he remained true to the Union, he never left the Democratic party. His work was done. His great age prevented him from taking any active part in the war; but he lived to see it brought to a successful termination, with the curse of slavery removed. He died at his residence in Detroit, June 17, 1866, at the age of eighty-four. He published a number of works, mainly historical or political in their nature.







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MARTIN VAN BUREN.

An excellent portrait by Huntington, now in the
New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.

MARTIN VAN BUREN.



THE eighth President of the United States was born at Kinderhook, N. Y., December 5, 1782. Though reared on the farm, his manners early acquired a certain polish from his intercourse with the guests who frequented the village inn, of which his father was the proprietor. We are told that by his fourteenth year, when he began to read law, he had gained a fair knowledge of the English branches, and had also picked up a little Latin. After six years spent in a law office in his native village, he went to New York, in 1802, to complete his studies. A year later he was admitted an attorney, and at once formed a partnership with a half-brother, one of the leading lawyers of Kinderhook. Mr. Van Buren's early professional career was highly successful; but may be passed over as being merely the period of preparation for his public life. At about the time of his admission as counsellor of the Supreme Court, he was married to Hannah Hoes, a lady who was, like himself, of Dutch ancestry. A year later, in 1808, he was appointed surrogate of Columbia County, and shortly afterward removed to the city of Hudson. During his seven years' residence in that city he formed an extensive library, and devoted a considerable portion of his time to the acquisition of those higher branches of knowledge which it was not his privilege to obtain earlier through the medium of a college course. In 1816 he removed to Albany where,

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three years later, his wife died, leaving him four sons. Mr. Van Buren remained a widower until his death forty-three years afterward.

He was a born politician and a life-long Democrat. So great was his impatience to enter the stormy arena of party strife, that he did not even wait until he had attained his majority, but acted as a delegate in a Republican convention at the age of eighteen. It should be borne in mind that the Jeffersonian party did not generally adopt the name of Democrat until the time of Andrew Jackson. Mr. Van Buren became a member of the State Senate in 1812, quickly assuming his natural position as a party leader. "The spoils system" which still rules with a tyrannical hand in American politics, and which neither of our great parties seem at all inclined to throw off, flourished in full vigor in New York for years before its introduction into the national policy by General Jackson. The Federalists, who were longer lived in New York than in the country at large, obtained temporary control of the State in 1813, and, in consequence, Mr. Van Buren lost his surrogateship; but two years later a counter revolution took place, and he was rewarded with the attorney-generalship which office he held until 1819, when it went as it had come, by a political overturn. He continued at the same time to hold his seat in the Senate, serving two terms, or eight years in all. When he retired in 1820 he was the leader of the democracy in the State of New York.

Mr. Van Buren was elected United States senator in 1821, and was a member of the New York Constitutional Convention in the same year. In the latter body, with his characteristic conservatism, he opposed universal suffrage and the popular election of judges. His large practice had by this time enabled him to become the possessor of a handsome property, and henceforth he was at liberty to devote his attention almost exclusively to affairs of state. When he entered the National Senate there was practically but one

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party in the country — the Democratic party of which he was a member; but during the administration of John Quincy Adams, the lines began to be drawn again, and Mr. Van Buren took sides with the distinctively Democratic wing, the opponents of Adams and Clay, who finally accepted General Jackson as their leader. He was very courteous in debate, always respecting the private character while criticising the policy of his antagonists. He entered upon his second term in 1827; but a year later he was elected Governor of New York, and resigned his seat in the Senate upon his inauguration on the 1st of January, 1829.

He held the office of Governor only a little over two months, resigning it in March, 1829, to accept the position of Secretary of State under President Jackson. The relations between the President and his Secretary became very intimate, especially after Calhoun lost favor, and the all-powerful protection of the great soldier-president cleared away every obstacle to the onward progress of "the little magician" toward political distinction. Mr. Van Buren retired from the cabinet in May, 1831, partly as an answer to the charges of his enemies, that he was using his office to further his designs upon the presidency. He was soon afterward appointed Minister to the Court of St. James, and sailed for England, where he arrived in September. One of the pleasant features of his brief mission was a journey through the country in the company of Washington Irving, in the course of which he revelled in the traditional delights of an English Christmas. Soon, however, he was called upon to suffer an extraordinary indignity. He had been appointed during the recess of the Senate, and that body, by the casting vote of Vice-President Calhoun, refused to confirm the appointment. This petty exhibition of personal spite served to increase Mr. Van Buren's popularity, and he was soon afterward nominated for the Vice-Presidency. He also received some compensation for his mortification in the in-

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creased respect with which he was received by the English officials. He had his final audience March 22, 1832, dined with William IV. two days later, and, after a short visit to the Continent, returned home in July, declining a public reception on account of the prevalence of the cholera in New York. In the ensuing fall he was elected Vice-President, and held that office during the four years of General Jackson's second administration.

As a matter of course he received the regular Democratic nomination for the presidency in 1835, and was elected, in 1836, by a clear majority of forty-six over the four candidates, among whom the Whig vote was divided. He was, as he himself remarked in his inaugural on the following 4th of March, the first president born after the Revolution. He carried out the same general policy as his predecessor, indeed he retained most of the old cabinet. He entered upon the duties of his office at a time when the country was in the midst of a financial panic unequalled in her history. The United States had been at peace for many years, and had enjoyed a degree of prosperity which was the wonder of the world. Never had a nation experienced such rapid increase in wealth and population; but people became so accustomed to good fortune that they became reckless. There was unlimited speculation in Western lands. Large amounts of money were expended in improvements, and larger amounts wasted in luxury and extravagance. Then came the great reaction. Mercantile houses failed. Banks were compelled to close their doors and suspend payment. The poorer classes were excited to frenzy by the prevailing high prices. A mob in the city of New York destroyed a great flour warehouse. The government could not find money to meet its ordinary expenses, and in this extremity an extra session of Congress was called by the President. As in all similar cases, people were slow to ascribe their misfortunes to their legitimate source in their

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own extravagance, and popular sentiment very unjustly held Mr. Van Buren and his administration responsible for all these disasters, or at least looked in that direction for relief. He recommended to Congress the establishment of an Independent Treasury, for the deposit of all government money which had hitherto been deposited in banks. A bill for this purpose failed at the extra session; but it became a law in 1840, the most important measure of the administration. The financial crisis was over by the fall of 1838, and the country once more fairly prosperous.

Mr. Van Buren rendered himself unpopular with a certain portion of his party by his honorable and patriotic course during the rebellion in Canada in 1837-8. Bodies of armed sympathizers from the United States having crossed the borders to aid the insurgents, he promptly issued a proclamation warning them not to expect protection from the American government, and threatening them with punishment for their infraction of the neutrality laws. This action was made by his enemies the ground of a charge of disregard of the rights of the oppressed and of the common people generally.

During the greater part of his administration the hostilities with the Seminole Indians in Florida continued, causing untold suffering to the inhabitants of that section, and an immense expenditure of money by the government. In the summer of 1839, Mr. Van Buren visited his old home, being received along the route with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately, many of his political enemies refused him the respect due to the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, who was discharging the duties of his high office conscientiously and well. In 1840, he was nominated by the Democrats for reelection. Then followed the famous "hard cider" campaign. Van Buren was defeated badly, but bore his reverse with equanimity, and with his characteristic courtesy welcomed and entertained his successor, General Harrison, for

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several days before he retired from the White House on March 4, 1841.

He now returned to his native town of Kinderhook, to his beautiful estate at Lindenwald, which was to be his home for the rest of his life. He did not, however, as he might have done, enter at once upon a retirement of dignity and ease. He longed to regain the high position from which his fellow-citizens had seen fit to depose him, and confidently expected the nomination of his party in 1844. In 1842, he made a journey through the Southern States, and visited Clay and Jackson. But he was opposed to the annexation of Texas. Much as he desired to be President, he ruined his chances for a nomination by refusing, in a manly way, to do violence to his conscience, and favor that measure to gain the support of the South. He gave Mr. Polk his support, as indeed he did to every subsequent democratic candidate, excepting, of course, Mr. Cass in 1848. In the latter year he was himself the candidate of the "Free Soil" wing of the democratic party, but received no electoral vote. After this defeat he ceased to take an active part in politics. He was strongly opposed to the extension of slavery; but, unlike the majority of the Free Soilers, he did not join the new Republican party.

Mr. Van Buren made a second visit to Europe after he had reached the age of three score and ten, remaining abroad some two years and returning to America in 1855. He voted against Mr. Lincoln in 1860; but gave him his cordial support in his measures for the preservation of the Union. He died July 24, 1862, at the age of eighty, in the midst of the great civil war, at a dark time when the destinies of the country were hanging in the balance; but in full sympathy with the North in its struggle against rebellion and confident in its final triumph.



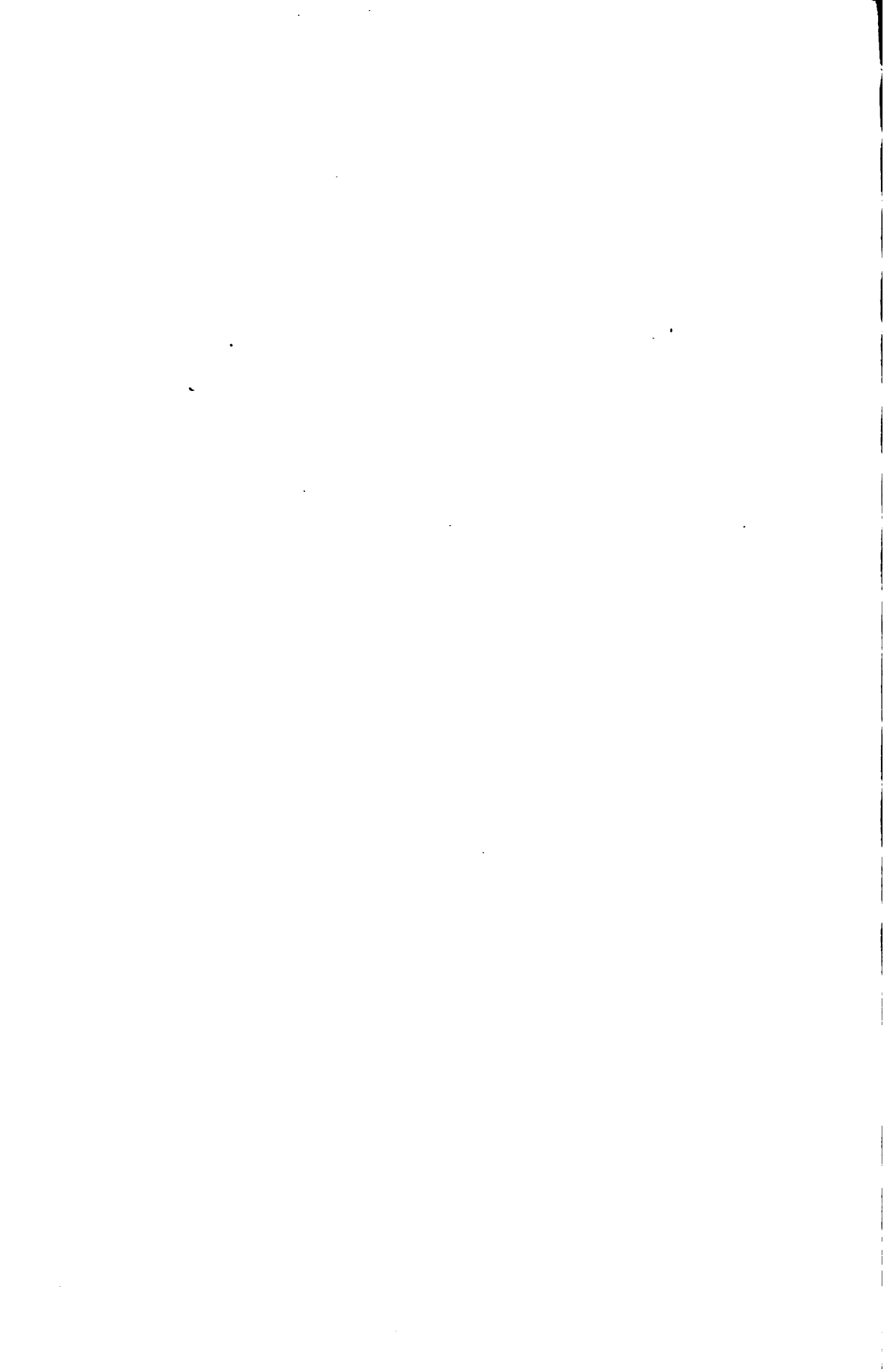
NEW YORK
1845
1847



JOHN VAN
ALSTON
VAN ALSTON

WASHINGTON IRVING.

By Gilbert Stuart Newton [1797-1835]. Painted in London
in 1820.



WASHINGTON IRVING.



HIS most elegant of American writers was born in New York City, April 3, 1783. His father was a worthy gentleman whose morals were strict even to severity; but the boy was entirely unlike the father. Light-hearted and disposed to idleness, very little inclined to study, naturally fond of music, and very early in the habit of jotting down his thoughts in rhyme, he would lounge around the wharves instead of going to school, and would even steal quietly out of the house after prayers of an evening and betake himself away to the forbidden pleasures of the theatre. His health was quite delicate which accounts very likely for much of his distaste for study. After his sixteenth year he devoted some of his time to reading law, and some to general literature, the latter being much more to his taste. But he lived much out of doors, in the woods or upon the beautiful river, which his pen has done so much to render famous. With nothing to do but to enjoy himself, he turned to literary composition as a means of diversion, and, in 1802, he appeared as a contributor to the "Morning Chronicle," a journal published in New York by one of his four elder brothers, who, with one exception, displayed considerable literary ability. His first writings were satirical letters under the signature of Jonathan Oldstyle. Alarmed at his increasing ill health, his brothers

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determined to send him, at the age of twenty-one, almost as a last hope, to the south of Europe, and the sea voyage proved to be of great benefit to him.

Landing at Bordeaux, in June, 1804, he began an apparently aimless but most delightful series of wanderings through the most picturesque portions of the Old World, which extended over a period of some twenty months. He helped French country girls with their needle work, and made the best of bad fare at provincial taverns. He roamed through romantic ruins, and was watched by Napoleon's police with an eye of suspicion. He easily made his *entrée* into good society by the charm of his manners, and he fell into the hands of Sicilian pirates. He visited the wretched cabins of the peasants of Sicily, and was hail fellow on board of American men-of-war. In Rome, he met the painter Allston, and was almost persuaded to adopt the artistic profession. He learned a little French in fascinating Paris, and saw Siddons in London. The memories of these varied scenes were treasured up, to be woven into his inimitable works of fact and fiction. Shortly after his return to America, in 1806, he was admitted to the bar.

But we hear nothing of any brilliant success in his profession. Much more pleasing to him than pleading before juries were the dinners and clubs and society belles of New York and Baltimore and Washington. Some time he found, indeed, for literary work. The little, short-lived semi-monthly, "Salmagundi," to which Irving was a contributor, belongs to this period. Its piquant notes on society topics of the day are of little interest to modern readers, but were highly popular in the time of their first publication. Irving also made some slight venture into the field of politics; but finding that it brought him into low and uncongenial company, he soon abandoned it in disgust. He took some slight part as one of the counsel for the defence, in the trial of Aaron Burr at Richmond, in 1807.

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In 1809, he finished his first work of importance, the humorous "History of New York, by Diedrich Knickerbocker." This not only brought him great popularity and quickly raised him to the foremost rank among contemporary American writers, but also attracted very flattering attention from Sir Walter Scott. But he was even yet undecided as to his life-work. He formed a business partnership with his brothers, in which it would seem that they were to do all the work, while he might continue to enjoy the pleasures of society and indulge his literary fancies. About the time of the breaking out of the war of 1812 he assumed the editorship of a magazine in Philadelphia, to which he contributed a series of elegantly written biographies of naval officers. His strong sympathies with England made him look upon the war with that country with disfavor; but when the British troops destroyed the Capitol, his indignation was great, and in a burst of patriotism, he offered his services to the Governor of New York, and was for four months military secretary with the rank of colonel. In 1815, he went to England in the interest of Irving & Brothers. He had intended to make his visit a brief one; but it was seventeen years before he again saw his native country.

After a somewhat extended tour of Great Britain, he settled down with determination to the drudgery of common mercantile work, which engrossed his attention until the house became bankrupt in 1818. This reverse of fortune made a singular change in the relative positions of Washington Irving and his brothers. Hitherto, they, with a fraternal affection which is rare in this selfish world, had in effect supported their talented brother in idleness. Now he took up his pen in good earnest, and fully decided to make literature his profession, and soon found, to his great satisfaction, that he could provide generously both for himself and for them. Having declined several offers of lucrative editorial positions, and also declined to contribute to the

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London Quarterly, at one hundred guineas per article, because that periodical had published unkind things about America, he began, in 1819, the publication in the United States, serially, of the "Sketch Book." It was received with high favor, and he soon published an English edition. He became one of the lions of the literary society of London, and was accorded a hearty welcome in Paris. He fairly divided the literary honors of the day with Scott and Byron.

Upon his continued success in the realm of letters, we can only find space to remark in a general way. "Bracebridge Hall," that fascinating picture of English rural life, which no English writer has rivalled, was written in Paris, and published in 1822. Ill health again compelling a change of climate, he lived for some time at Dresden, and was received with marked attention by the court and the best society of Saxony. After his return to Paris, he published, in 1824, his "Tales of a Traveller," for which the celebrated English bookseller, Murray, paid him fifteen hundred pounds, or more than seven thousand dollars. Irving's reputation was now becoming world-wide, and his works were translated into other tongues. He decided to select a theme for his next work which should be of world-wide interest, and settled upon the "Life of Columbus." To make the necessary preparations, he went, in February, 1826, to Madrid, and now began his most intense literary labors.

He resided in Spain for more than three years, and there, besides completing his life of the great Genoese navigator, he collected materials, and sketched in outline those exquisite tales of Spanish life and history which will ever continue to delight the reader. He was in the midst of preparations for a history of the conquest of Mexico, and the life of Washington, when he received the appointment, in 1829, of Secretary of Legation at the Court of St. James. The latter work was postponed for several years, while the former was courteously abandoned when he learned that his fellow-

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countryman, William H. Prescott, was writing upon the same subject. For the English copyright of the "Life of Columbus" he received fifteen thousand dollars.

He remained in England two years, and was for a part of the time Chargé d'Affaires. The Royal Society of Literature presented him with a gold medal, and Oxford conferred upon him the degree of D. C. L. He occupied a distinguished position at the coronation of William IV. in 1830. In the following year he resigned his office, and, in May, 1832, once more returned to his native shores. He was, beyond all doubt, the greatest of living American writers, and the enthusiasm with which he was greeted upon his arrival in the United States was unbounded; but his modesty prompted him to decline all public honors, save a splendid banquet in his own city.

He had amassed considerable wealth abroad; but the claims of his brothers and other relatives, and his own somewhat expensive tastes, necessitated a continued use of his pen, and this was rendered the more imperative, when, a few years later, he suffered severe losses, through imprudent investments, in common with so many of his countrymen during that period of extraordinary speculation which preceded the panic of 1837. Not long after his return from Europe, he made an extended tour through the United States, and the results of his observations were embodied in a series of highly interesting tales of Western and border life. About this time he purchased a fine estate at Tarrytown on the Hudson, and this, after a large amount of money had been laid out upon its improvement, became his permanent home; beautiful, quaint Sunnyside. Preferring a quiet though not an idle life, in this lovely spot, to the turmoil of politics, he steadily declined the preferments which were freely offered him, including a seat in the cabinet of his friend, President Van Buren, until 1842, when he was prevailed upon by President Tyler to once more forego ease and pleasant companionship,

WASHINGTON IRVING.

and accept the important and honorable position of Minister to Spain.

Avoiding, as far as possible, the friendly attention of the English and French courts, he hastened to Madrid. He found Spain with a twelve-year-old queen, Isabel Segunda, under the regency of her mother, but with a large part of the kingdom in a state of open revolt under Don Carlos. Mr. Irving consequently found himself much embarrassed in the discharge of his diplomatic duties by the constant changes in the Spanish government, and the alarms of the Civil War. It is not strange, that under such circumstances, that we find the statesman and author longing, at the age of sixty-three, for "dear little Sunnyside." His wishes were gratified after a service of four years which was highly acceptable to both governments. He was recalled in September, 1846.

The remainder of his life was spent at his beautiful home on the Hudson, with frequent visits to New York and occasional ones to more distant points. He was ever busy, the most important work of his closing years being his "Life of Washington." He was in receipt of a generous income, and was amply endowed by nature with the cheerfulness and contentment which are a solace to declining years. Washington Irving was never married. Early in life he was affianced to a beautiful New York lady, who died at eighteen, and he seemed never to have thought seriously of marriage with any other. Even in his old age any mention of this lady would cause him profound sorrow. He died November 28, 1859. He still remains without a peer as an author, preëminent among American men of letters, as his great namesake does among the statesmen and rulers of the earth.



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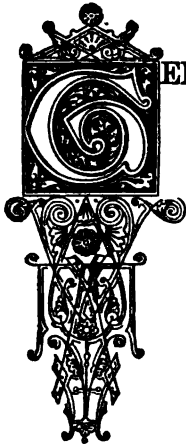


PROVEN
CLUB
VOLUME

ZACHARY TAYLOR.

From the painting, by G. P. A. Healy [1813 —], in the
Corcoran Gallery at Washington, D. C. It is one
of a series of portraits painted by Healy
for the Royal Gallery at Versailles.

ZACHARY TAYLOR.



GENERAL TAYLOR was born November 24, 1784, in Orange County, Va. He was yet an infant, less than a year old, when his father made a new home for the family in the Kentucky wilderness, not far from the present city of Louisville. The settlers were exposed to nightly attacks from the savages, and when young Zachary was old enough to be sent to school, he went, as did his companions, armed for defence, and a regular company drill formed an important part of the education of the sturdy lads of the frontier. Among his schoolmates he was noted for his activity and bluntness, his modesty and intelligence. Accustomed from his earliest years to live in the midst of continual preparations for war, it was not to be wondered at that this son of a valiant revolutionary colonel should manifest a decided inclination for a military life. But the great victory of General Wayne on the Maumee, in 1794, completely subdued, for a time, the tribes of the Northwest, and, during the period of peace which ensued, Zachary found no opportunity to enter upon the life of a soldier, but diligently pursued the vocation of a farmer. Civilization advanced rapidly, Louisville attained the rank of a port of entry, and Colonel Taylor was appointed collector. Not until after he had become of age, and his youthful industry had been rewarded by a goodly accumulation of property, did Zachary again hear the call to arms.

ZACHARY TAYLOR.

In 1806, he was enrolled in the Kentucky militia, and his company was held in readiness to resist, if it should be necessary, the ambitious designs and unlawful enterprises of Aaron Burr. Taylor shared the popular indignation against Great Britain, when, in the following year, the American frigate *Chesapeake* was attacked by the *Leopard*, in time of peace. It was therefore with pleasure that he learned of his appointment by President Jefferson in May, 1808, as first lieutenant in the seventh infantry. The appointment was in every way a worthy one, for the young lieutenant possessed, in an eminent degree, the three qualifications which it is said that Jefferson was wont to insist upon, — honesty, faithfulness, and capability. It was some three years before the commencement of hostilities, and during that time Taylor became proficient in the theoretical parts of a soldier's duties. In 1810 he was married to a Maryland belle, Margaret Smith. This estimable lady, who usually accompanied her soldier husband except in time of actual war, lived to see him in the Presidential chair, and only survived him for a brief period.

In 1811, Lieutenant Taylor was ordered to join the forces under General Harrison, and his bravery soon won for him a captain's commission. He was now placed in command of a fort which had been recently constructed near the present city of Terre Haute in Indiana, and named after his commander. Here, in September, 1812, he made a gallant defence against an Indian attack, for which he received the brevet rank of major. After being actively engaged during the remainder of the war, he found himself reduced to the grade of captain, and this action on the part of the War Department led to his temporary retirement from the army; but only long enough, as he is said to have remarked, for him to get in a crop of corn, as he was reinstated as major in 1816, and ordered to Green Bay. While at this post an incident occurred which will serve to illustrate the care with

ZACHARY TAYLOR.

which he watched over the welfare of the troops under his charge. Upon one occasion a paymaster had provided a large amount of almost worthless "wild-cat" currency wherewith to pay the soldiers. When Taylor made objection to it, the paymaster gave him slyly to understand that it was only for the men, and that the officers were to be paid in good United States Bank bills. "Take the stuff away," Taylor ordered; "I will not permit my men to be paid with any money which I would not take myself."

For the next sixteen years he held command, at different times, of a number of military posts in different parts of the country, occasionally finding leisure to spend a little time on his farm, and also serving on several important Boards of Army officers. He was regularly promoted in accordance with the rules of the War Department, being commissioned lieutenant-colonel in 1819 and colonel in 1832. In 1824, he was detailed on recruiting service at Louisville. From the promptness with which he obeyed orders, and the ease with which he endured the same hardships with the rank and file, he acquired the honorable sobriquet of "Rough and Ready." Although a strict disciplinarian, he was averse to pomp and display, and rarely wore his full uniform. By his soldiers he was at all times held in the highest esteem.

Colonel Taylor took part in the Black Hawk War of 1832, after which he enjoyed a short period of repose, until his assignment to Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien, from which he was transferred, in 1836, to Florida, to spend four years amid the dreadful barbarities of the Seminole War. He won especial renown in the battle of Okeechobee, which was fought on Christmas Day, 1837, and was brevetted brigadier-general. In the following May he assumed the sole command of the army in Florida, and continued the struggle with the wronged and desperate savages until June, 1840, when he was relieved at his own request. He had long been an owner of cotton lands in Louisiana, which yielded

ZACHARY TAYLOR.

him a good income, and about this time he purchased, for ninety-five thousand dollars, a plantation with three hundred slaves near Baton Rouge, where he made a permanent home for his family. After a short retirement, during which he visited Boston and other Northern cities, he was placed in command of the Military Department of the Southwest.

On the 15th of June, 1845, three days before the annexation resolution was accepted by the revolted Mexican Province of Texas, General Taylor was ordered to enter Texan territory with his troops, and defend its western borders against Mexican invasion. He embarked from New Orleans in July and remained at Corpus Christi until the following spring, meanwhile gathering together a body of regulars and volunteers which became known as the Army of Occupation, but declining to make any aggressive movement without express orders from Washington. These orders having been received, he advanced in March, 1846, to the Rio Grande, and established Fort Brown, opposite Matamoras. Taylor had marched with the greater part of his force to defend his base of supplies at Point Isabel, when Fort Brown was attacked by the enemy, May 3. Four days later he left Point Isabel with twenty-one hundred men to relieve the fort; but on the following day, May 8, he found himself confronted by six thousand Mexicans at Palo Alto. After a struggle of five hours in the long grass of the prairie, the enemy was forced to retire, the Americans having suffered but slightly. The next day Taylor found his march again obstructed by the Mexicans, who, this time, occupied an intrenched position at Resaca de la Palma. Though outnumbered nearly four to one, skilful generalship and bravery once more gave the victory to the Americans. On the 18th of May General Taylor entered Matamoras on the Mexican side of the river Rio Grande. His brilliant victories were hailed with delight throughout the United States; he was the hero of the hour, and was raised to the rank of major-general.

ZACHARY TAYLOR.

At Matamoras he received large reinforcements; but was delayed several months by the lack of means of transportation. In August, he advanced with over six thousand men to attack the city of Monterey, which surrendered September 24th after a stubborn resistance. The terms of surrender included a cessation of hostilities for six weeks, and General Taylor established his headquarters at Monterey while awaiting orders from Washington. The armistice having been disapproved of by the President, active operations were resumed in November, and many important posts in Northern Mexico were captured. In January, 1847, General Scott arrived in Mexico, and, of course, assumed the supreme command. Much to Taylor's regret he was now called upon to part with a large number of his troops, who were drawn off to support the Commander-in-chief in his projected advance upon the city of Mexico by way of Vera Cruz; but, like a good soldier, he bowed to the commands of his superior.

With his army reduced to less than five thousand, General Taylor found himself in February, 1847, exposed to the attack of twenty thousand Mexicans, under the most celebrated of their generals, Santa Anna. When, upon the birthday of the Father of his Country, the bluff old veteran was summoned to surrender to this overwhelming force, he returned to Santa Anna the laconic reply, "I decline acceding to your request." He had posted his army in an advantageous situation, and as he rode along his lines, he was greeted with unbounded enthusiasm. The action which followed, and which lasted during the greater part of two days, was one of the most glorious in our annals — Buena Vista. At the close of the second day, the Americans rested on their arms, ready to renew the fight; but morning disclosed that our army had won a great victory, and that the enemy had disappeared, after losing twenty-five hundred of their men. This celebrated achievement was a fitting close to General Taylor's military career. The operations in Northern

ZACHARY TAYLOR.

Mexico were at an end, and in September he obtained leave of absence, and returned home, to be received with marked demonstrations of joy and respect.

The hero of Buena Vista was now brought forward as a candidate for the presidency, and in June, 1848, he received the Whig nomination for that office. In November of that year he was elected, receiving one hundred and sixty-three votes to one hundred and twenty-seven for Mr. Cass. He was somewhat distrustful of his ability to fill the high office thus gratefully bestowed upon him; but recognizing the will of the people as supreme, he entered upon his duties March 5, 1849, with a determination to execute the laws impartially, without regard to party or section.

The recent discovery of gold in California had given to that immense territory an importance wholly unlooked for by the Southern politicians who had instigated the war for its conquest. With dismay they beheld its rapid settlement by free state men, and when, in September, 1849, the Californians, with remarkable unanimity, formed a State Constitution excluding slavery, and applied for admission, the rage of the baffled slaveholders found vent in open threats of rebellion. President Taylor, although as has been said, himself the owner of a large number of slaves, heard these threats with unconcealed indignation, and, with a touch of the old Jacksonian spirit, declared himself ready to head an army to crush out treason. The following winter was made memorable by the violent debate in Congress, upon the all-engrossing question of slavery; and by the ingenious attempts on the part of weak-kneed Northern statesmen to reconcile the South to the admission of free California, by a series of unworthy concessions. The discussion was continued into the spring and summer of 1850; but, at its very height, President Taylor died, after a brief illness, July 9, 1850, sincerely lamented by a vast majority of his countrymen, to whom he left the legacy of an unsullied name.



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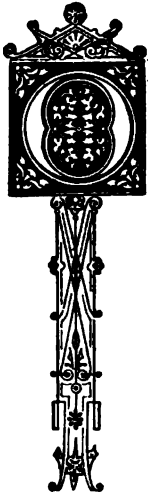


NOY WEB
JULIAN
VIRGIL

OLIVER H. PERRY.

From a portrait, after John Wesley Jarvis [1780-1840],
in the Redwood Library at Newport, R. I.

OLIVER H. PERRY.



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY, the most famous member of a famous family of seamen, was born at South Kingston, R. I., August 21, 1785. His father determined that he should enter the naval service, and he consequently received only a few years' schooling, chiefly at Newport, before he was called to enter upon the practical duties of life. Three of his brothers followed in his footsteps, one of them, Matthew, attaining celebrity in after years from his expedition to Japan. When, in consequence of the difficulties with France in 1797, the government augmented the power of the navy, the senior Perry, a veteran of the Revolution, was commissioned as captain, and assigned to the command of a vessel of which he superintended the construction, at Warren, R. I. In 1799 and the year following, Oliver, having obtained his midshipman's warrant, accompanied his father on several cruises to the West Indies and the Gulf of Mexico, thus receiving his first lessons in actual warfare at the early age of fifteen. In 1801, the clouds of war having been dissipated, a reduction of force took place in the navy, by which Captain Perry was retired from duty; but the young midshipman's name was retained on the roll of active officers. In June, 1802, he sailed in the Adams frigate with a fleet sent to the Mediterranean against the pirates of Tripoli. During this cruise he became acting

OLIVER H. PERRY.

lieutenant, and had an opportunity to visit many of the Mediterranean ports, as the commodore, Richard V. Morris, managed to keep pretty well clear of the enemy. In the following year Morris was dismissed from the service, and Perry returned home to apply himself for some months to the study of mathematics and astronomy, while Preble and Decatur were winning their brightest laurels.

In July, 1804, Perry sailed from Washington on his second Mediterranean cruise. He remained at sea for about two years, during which time the fleet to which he was attached brought the war with Tripoli to a successful termination. He attracted the favorable notice of his commodore, Samuel Barron, with whom he returned to America in 1806. About this time the indignation of the American people was aroused by the indignities perpetrated upon merchantmen by British cruisers, under pretence of searching for contraband goods, and the government began to make some feeble efforts to provide means for defence against such insolence. The construction of a flotilla of gunboats at Newport was ordered, and Lieutenant Perry was assigned to the supervision of the work, and, in 1807, he took command of the little fleet. During the two years in which he was occupied in this service, his skill as a commander became apparent. He gave particular attention to the science of gunnery, so that upon the opening of the war with England, he had no superior in the navy as an ordnance officer. While assisting with his gunboats in the protection of New York harbor, news was received of the capture of the United States frigate *Chesapeake* by the British, and Perry looked eagerly forward to the time when he might be permitted to bear his part in avenging the insult to his flag. But the British outrages were yet to be patiently endured for five long years before the day of reckoning should come. Perry was the more incensed at these outrages, since his own father, now a captain in the

OLIVER H. PERRY.

merchant service, had been on several occasions obliged to submit to overhauls and detention at the hands of British men-of-war.

In 1809, he was appointed to the command of the *Revenge*. In the spring of the ensuing year his vessel was refitted at Washington, and he sailed for a cruise of several months off the Southern coast. For his efficiency in guarding the merchant vessels in that quarter, he received the special thanks of the Navy Department. Later in the year he joined Commodore Rogers' squadron in the Northern waters; but in January, 1811, he had the misfortune to have his vessel wrecked off Watch Hill, R. I. Perry was freed from all blame by a court-martial which investigated the disaster. He now went to Washington where he learned from the Secretary of the Navy, that no further active duty would be required of him for at least a year. During this interval of inaction he was married.

But inaction was torture to a man like Perry, especially after the declaration of war when he saw so many of his brother officers gaining glorious distinction on the sea. He made repeated efforts to obtain a command but without success. But instead of throwing up his commission in a fit of pique, he busied himself with exercising his squadron of gunboats, and established recruiting stations at Newport and New London. At length he was gratified by receiving orders from the Navy Department to proceed to Erie, and take command of the fleet on the lake. He left Newport in February, 1813, taking with him the best of his crews and travelling with as much expedition as the storms and snow-drifts would permit. On arriving at Erie he found his fleet only partly built, and it was the middle of July before he hoisted his broad pennant on the brig *Lawrence*. In the meantime he had done gallant service at the capture of Fort George, fighting side by side with Scott. By the first of August he was well supplied with men and was ready to

OLIVER H. PERRY.

coöperate with General Harrison, and to dispute with the British Commodore Barclay, for the supremacy on the lakes.

For a time the British fleet avoided an action; but on the 13th of September, Barclay and his six vessels appeared off Put-in-bay where Perry's squadron lay at anchor. Perry at once gave orders to prepare for battle. As a signal for going into action, he hoisted a large flag, inscribed with the immortal words of Lawrence, "Don't give up the ship." The enemy was attacked at close quarters, as the long guns of the British gave them a great advantage at a distance. For two hours the shores of the lake resounded with the crash of death-dealing shot, and the groans of the wounded and dying. Perry's flagship was the main object of the enemy's fire, and at length she became a total wreck with every gun silenced. He now determined upon the hazardous action which has placed his name high on the roll of America's naval heroes. In the face of a galling fire from the enemy, he transferred his flag to the *Niagara* which as yet had borne little or no part in the conflict; when he reached her in safety, the British commander, now severely wounded, dared no longer continue the fight against such a brave and skilful antagonist, and struck his colors; and so ended the famous battle of Lake Erie.

Oliver H. Perry had the honor of being the only man in all history who had ever received the submission of an entire British fleet, and to this day the feat remains unparalleled. His modest despatch to General Harrison announcing his victory read as follows: "We have met the enemy and they are ours; two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop." There being no enemy left to fight on the water, Perry again displayed his military ability at the battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813. Having joined in the pursuit of the British in their retreat from Detroit as far as was possible in boats, he mounted a horse, being an excellent rider, and served as a volunteer aid to General Harrison. He

OLIVER H. PERRY.

soon afterwards set out on his return to Newport, being accompanied as far as Buffalo by his prisoner, Commodore Barclay, whom he there paroled. His homeward journey was a conqueror's triumph. The people were loud in their acclamations of praise; while the principal cities, which he subsequently visited, vied with each other in showering honors upon the young commander. At Washington he was welcomed by the President, and admitted to the floor of the Senate. Congress voted him their thanks with a gold medal, and he was raised to the rank of post-captain.

In August, 1814, he was assigned to the frigate *Java*, then in course of equipment at Baltimore, and commanded one of the batteries by which the British were annoyed in their passage down the Potomac after they had destroyed Washington, after which he returned to Baltimore and assisted in the defence of that city. Early in 1816, he sailed in the *Java* for the Mediterranean. During this cruise, he so far forgot himself on one occasion, in a sudden fit of passion, as to strike one of his subordinate officers named Heath. After their return to America, Heath challenged Perry, and a duel was fought between the two, October 19, 1818, Perry refusing to fire. After remaining for some time at Newport in charge of the naval station, and in the enjoyment of domestic happiness in the bosom of his family, he was again ordered to sea in 1819. He was sent in the *John Adams* frigate to chastise the Spanish pirates in the West Indian and South American waters, and there he contracted the yellow fever which terminated his valuable life on the 23d of August. His remains were temporarily interred at Port Spain, in the Island of Trinidad, with military honors from the British garrison, some of whom had been his prisoners at Lake Erie, and remembered with gratitude his kind and courteous treatment on that occasion. They were subsequently removed to Newport.



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ROY VAN
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VASSAL

NICHOLAS BIDDLE.

From an exceptionally fine portrait, by Henry Inman [1801 1846], painted for the late Hon. Richard M. Blatchford, of New York, an intimate friend of Mr. Biddle, and father of Mr. Justice Blatchford of the United States Supreme Court, in whose Washington residence the portrait now hangs.



NICHOLAS BIDDLE.



NICHOLAS BIDDLE, whose name is inseparably connected with the financial history of the earlier years of our government, and especially with that institution which was so long a prominent factor in Federal politics, the United States Bank, was born in the city of Philadelphia, on the 8th of January, 1786. His intellectual forces matured with remarkable rapidity, and he was hurried through the academy and through the University of Pennsylvania in such a manner that he was fitted to receive his degree by the time he was thirteen. This, however, it was deemed best to defer, owing to his extreme youth, and he entered the Sophomore Class at Princeton, graduating in 1801, after gaining a very brilliant college record. He next began to read law; but his studies were interrupted by his appointment as secretary of legation to John Armstrong, the United States minister to France. He developed an extraordinary aptitude for business, and the gray-headed French diplomats were amazed at the ease and ability with which the handsome young American handled grave matters of state.

Even so early in life, he proved himself an adept in matters of finance. Certain claims against the French government which, according to treaty were to be paid out of the Louisiana purchase money, were referred to the young secretary for audit, and he attended personally to the payment

NICHOLAS BIDDLE.

of the claims when they were allowed. Subsequently, he travelled extensively through Greece, and other parts of Europe, after which he acted, for a time, as secretary to James Monroe, then American envoy to England. Here he again found opportunity to astonish his elders, by a discussion with the learned professors at Cambridge, on the subject of the relation between the ancient and the modern Greek tongue, in which his knowledge of the living idiom was so much superior to that of his opponents, that he had them clearly at a disadvantage, very much to the gratification of Mr. Monroe's national pride.

Upon his return to America, in 1807, he opened an office in his native city and began to practise law; but he was also engaged in literary pursuits, and in politics. He became interested in the publication of a magazine called the "Port Folio," and was, for a time, its sole editor. Soon after the acquisition of Louisiana, an expedition was sent out by authority of President Jefferson, under the command of Captains Lewis and Clarke, to explore the new territory. Mr. Biddle undertook the task of preparing the report of this expedition for publication, and carried it almost to completion, although his name did not appear on the title page.

In 1810, Mr. Biddle entered the Pennsylvania Legislature, where he became a distinguished champion of the movement for the establishment of a general system of instruction for the young, at the public expense. He was, indeed, ahead of his generation, and met with present defeat; but the agitation which he was so largely influential in promoting went on, gathering fresh impetus from year to year, until his beneficent designs were carried into execution, twenty-five years later, under the leadership of Thaddeus Stevens. But Mr. Biddle did not confine his attention to matters of local importance. He became deeply interested in the question of the re-charter of the United States Bank, and by his active

efforts in behalf of the measure, he commanded, young as he was, the attention of the entire country. As the Bank of the United States receives frequent mention in our pages, a slight notice of its history may not be out of place here.

Alexander Hamilton, while Secretary of the Treasury, in a report touching the financial condition of the government made in the year 1790, recommended the establishment of a bank which should issue notes receivable for all dues to the United States, thus providing a reliable and uniform currency for the whole country. In accordance with this recommendation a bill was passed in Congress in the following year to charter the Bank of the United States, with headquarters at Philadelphia, and branches in other cities as might be desirable. Much opposition was manifested to the new institution, especially by the Republicans who denied the right of Congress to create corporations of any kind. The government was at first the largest stockholder. The affairs of the bank were conducted with care, and it paid its shareholders a dividend of about four per cent. In 1795, the government sold nearly half of its stock, and, in 1802, disposed of the remainder. A large portion of the shares, if not a majority, were now in the hands of foreigners, and this was one of the principal reasons adduced by Thomas Jefferson for his determined opposition to the bank. In 1808, Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury, reported in favor of renewing the charter for another term of twenty years. The opposition had by this time gained such strength that the Senate was tied on the measure, and it was defeated by the casting vote of Vice-President Clinton, in 1811. The charter consequently expired by limitation, and the affairs of the bank were wound up—so carefully that the stockholders met with no loss.

The return to the old system of State banks, whose notes were either altogether uncurrent outside of the State of issue, or else only taken at a ruinous discount, soon produced wide-

NICHOLAS BIDDLE.

spread commercial disaster. It was in this emergency that the second United States Bank was chartered in 1816. It was similar in its nature to the first, but had a larger capital. The government was again the principal stockholder, and the appointment of five of the twenty-five directors was vested in the President of the United States. It is to be remembered that, as time went on, many statesmen and politicians changed their opinions concerning the bank, with the light of experience. Mr. Monroe was a determined opponent of the old bank, but recommended the new one, and, as President, signed the bill for its incorporation. Henry Clay opposed the re-charter in 1811, but strongly supported the proposition for a charter in 1816. Among the Republicans or Democrats who favored the bank was Nicholas Biddle.

Mr. Biddle opposed a resolution in the Pennsylvania Legislature against the first bank, in a speech which was widely published, and gave the young man of twenty-five a national reputation as a financier. At the close of his term he declined a reelection; but, in 1814, entered the State Senate. This position he resigned after about three years' service, during which time he was an active supporter of the war with England; and after the return of peace, he drew up a set of resolutions, which was adopted by the Legislature, containing a masterly rebuke to the Hartford Conventionists. He was a candidate for Congress in 1818, but was defeated.

In 1819, Nicholas Biddle was appointed by President Monroe as one of the government directors of the bank. Although he accepted the office with reluctance, he devoted himself to the financial interests of the great corporation with an assiduity which in time rendered the "Bank" and "Nick Biddle" almost synonymous terms. Upon the resignation of the president of the bank, Langdon Cheves, in 1822, Mr. Biddle was chosen to be his successor. Seven years of great prosperity ensued, during which the opposition to the bank was either dispelled entirely, or did not dare openly to attack

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an institution which had so abundantly proved its worth. Mr. Biddle's fame as a financier became world-wide. The Monroe and John Quincy Adams administrations placed no obstacles in the tide of prosperity; but opposition at last arose, and from an unexpected quarter.

In 1829, President Jackson, in his message to Congress, called attention to the approaching expiration of the bank charter, and broadly hinted his objection to its extension. Its unconstitutionality was alluded to; but his opposition was grounded chiefly on the fear that so rich a corporation, with its semi-official character, might be used as a powerful agency for political corruption. Out of this position the obstinate old hero could not be reasoned, and he proceeded forthwith to inaugurate his famous "bank war." He determined to cripple his enemy,—for so he had come to regard it,—by withdrawing the government deposit of ten millions, which he did in 1833 and 1834 on his own responsibility, after having sought in vain for authority from Congress.

For two years, Mr. Biddle continued to maintain the credit of the bank, both at home and abroad, by his superb financial management. So great was the confidence of the people in his methods, that a bill easily passed Congress for a re-charter; but Jackson gave the bank its *coup-de-grace* by vetoing the bill, the veto being sustained by the requisite minority in Congress. The bank was immediately re-chartered by the State of Pennsylvania; but the odds against it were overwhelming, and the struggle against misfortune was thenceforth hopeless. In the financial crash of 1837, it suspended payment in common with the other State banks throughout the country. It dragged out a lingering existence for three years longer, when it closed its operations forever, and the stockholders lost every dollar of their capital.

Mr. Biddle was a second time defeated in a congressional election in 1820. In 1839, having placed the affairs of the bank in a condition of temporary prosperity, so that its stock

NICHOLAS BIDDLE.

was above par, he resigned his office as president, and severed his connection with the institution. He was broken down in health and fortune, and was, besides, subjected to the adverse criticism of multitudes of thoughtless persons, who hastened to lay upon him the blame for those misfortunes which he had for many years averted by his masterly skill. To these strictures upon his management of the bank he made reply by an admirable series of articles in print. By his fellow-citizens of Philadelphia, he was highly respected, and he continued to take an active and honorable part in public affairs, especially in matters pertaining to education, being for some time President of Girard College. Even when warned by his physician that nothing but a change of climate could prevent a fatal termination of his illness, he simply replied, "I will die here," and continued his labors for the public welfare as long as strength remained to do so. He was the owner of a fine farm, which he cultivated with success, and was President of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society. He was an able writer, and some of his public orations are models of eloquence and learning. Mr. Biddle died February 26, 1844, at his country seat, near Philadelphia.





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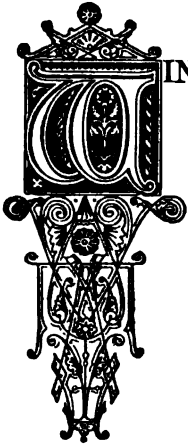
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FIELD SCOTT.

From a portrait made by Brady, of New York, in 1858.

WINFIELD SCOTT.



WINFIELD SCOTT was born of parents of Scotch descent, June 13, 1786, near Petersburg, Va. He began active life as a lawyer, having studied at William and Mary College, and afterward at Petersburg. Shortly after his admission to the bar, he witnessed a famous State trial, that of Aaron Burr, for treason, at Richmond. In the same year, 1807, he joined a Virginia cavalry company; but the war with England which seemed about to burst upon the country, was averted for a few years, and he returned to his practice. He contemplated settling at Charleston, S. C.; but upon arriving in that city, he became dissatisfied, and returned to Virginia; and while in Washington he received President Jefferson's promise of a captaincy in the army, should Congress decide to augment the forces. May 3, 1808, he was commissioned captain of light artillery, and he served for some time in the vicinity of New Orleans; but having injudiciously expressed his conviction of the complicity of his commander-in-chief, General Wilkinson, with the traitor Burr, he suffered a year's suspension, without, however, losing the esteem of his fellow-officers. Upon the opening of the War of 1812, he was assigned to duty, on the Niagara frontier, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

His bravery as a soldier, and his ability as a commander, were first proved at the battle of Queenstown, on October 13,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

1812. This action resulted in the defeat of the Americans, owing to the inefficiency of the militia and the overpowering force of the enemy; but the British general, Brock, was killed. Scott was taken prisoner while in the act of encouraging his men to further resistance, and was conveyed to Quebec. He was exchanged in the following January, and, being promoted to the rank of colonel, returned to the army on the frontier. He led the attack in person upon Fort George, May 27, 1813. After a short, but hotly contested action, in which the British lost over eight hundred men, the enemy abandoned the fort, and fired the magazines. Scott, at the head of two companies entered just in time to save the greater portion of the works. One of the magazines exploded, severely wounding the brave young colonel; but this did not prevent him from hoisting, with his own hands, the stars and stripes over the conquered fortress.

In March, 1814, Colonel Scott was raised to the rank of brigadier-general, and took charge of a camp of instruction at Buffalo, where, in a few months' time, he rendered his raw levies capable of contending with success against the trained veterans of England. On the 3d of July, his brigade assisted in the capture of Fort Erie, and this victory was followed by an inroad into Canada. The retreating enemy was pursued to the Chippewa, where an action took place July 5, resulting in the most important success that had yet attended the American arms during the war. On the 25th occurred the battle of Lundy's Lane, fought within sound of the roar of the cataract of Niagara. The British claimed the victory, although their general, Riall, fell into the hands of General Scott, who was himself severely wounded, and forced to give up his command. He was now brevetted major-general, and received many honors for his gallantry, among them a medal from Congress, and an honorary degree from Princeton. He was taken to Philadelphia for surgical treatment, and was subsequently appointed to the command

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of the Eastern Department. Declining to accept the office of Secretary of War, he was sent abroad on military and diplomatic business, sailing for Europe in July, 1815, and returning to America in the following year. He was married, in 1817, to Miss Mayo of Richmond, Va.

General Scott's life was now passed, for a series of years, in the uneventful discharge of his regular duties as a high army officer in time of peace. During this period he compiled and published his system of tactics, and had an important share in establishing the discipline of the United States regular army, which remained in force until it gave way to more modern methods during the Civil War. He was engaged in the Black Hawk War in 1832, and in the Seminole War in Florida in 1835. He was not upon the best of terms with President Jackson, and during the Florida campaign he was removed from his command. His management of the war was called in question, but his conduct was sustained by the court of inquiry. During the excitement caused by the Canadian rebellion of 1837-38, General Scott was sent to the frontier to preserve neutrality, and was appointed to oversee the removal, beyond the Mississippi, of the Cherokee Indians in 1838. In the following year he was again called to the Canadian frontier, where hostilities were on the point of breaking out between the inhabitants of New Brunswick and Maine on account of disputed territory. Happily, General Scott succeeded in arranging the difficulties by peaceful means, and the matter was finally settled three years later by the Ashburton Treaty. About this time he began to be talked of as presidential candidate, and he received considerable support in the Whig convention of 1839, which nominated General Harrison. In 1841, Major-General Macomb, the senior officer and commander-in-chief of the United States army, died, and Scott, being next in rank, succeeded him.

In December, 1846, General Scott was sent to Mexico,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

charged with the duty of entering that country by way of Vera Cruz, and making an advance upon the capital from that quarter. This he was able, finally, to accomplish in a masterly manner; but as a preliminary movement, he was obliged to call upon General Taylor for the best of his troops, so weakening him as to bring his triumphant southward progress to a close. It was some time before General Scott could get his troops transported from the Rio Grande; but on March 9th he effected a landing at Vera Cruz, which he carefully invested. The city and its castle, San Juan de Ulloa, a formidable pile, which had been constructed by the Spaniards at an expense of forty millions of dollars, were very strongly garrisoned, and held out until the 27th, when they capitulated. Five thousand Mexican troops were released on parole; but a large amount of munitions of war fell into the hands of the Americans. As soon as the necessary preparations could be made, the army commenced its march into the interior. Every step of the way was contested by the Mexicans. On the 18th of April, fourteen thousand of them made a stand in the wild mountain pass of Cerro Gordo. The eight thousand Americans carried the position by storm, and the Mexican general, Santa Anna, and his army took refuge in flight. Again the prisoners were paroled, there being no means of providing for them in any other way, and again vast quantities of spoils fell into General Scott's hands. The army continued to advance over nearly the same road taken by Cortez, three centuries before, until they reached the beautiful city of Puebla, where a halt was made to await reinforcements, from May 15th until early in August.

Several regiments whose term of enlistment had expired now returned home, and their places were taken by inexperienced troops. While at Puebla, General Scott issued a proclamation to the Mexicans, assuring them of considerate treatment if they would lay down their arms; but its effect

WINFIELD SCOTT.

was only to move that unfortunate people to a more stubborn resistance to the invaders. On the 7th of August the advance commenced, all communication with the base of supplies at Vera Cruz being now cut off. Decisive actions took place at Cherubusco and Contreras on the 20th. Over thirty thousand Mexicans were engaged, more than three times the number of Scott's army. They fought with bravery and desperation; but nothing could stand before the impetuous charge of the Americans. The Mexicans were driven back upon their capital with a loss of more than six thousand. Scott lost a thousand men, killed and wounded.

After these brilliant victories, General Scott's magnanimity led him to commit a grave blunder which cost many brave American soldiers their lives. Willing to spare the Mexicans the humiliation of surrendering their capital, and yielding to the importunities of neutrals, who warned him not to drive his enemy to desperation, he consented to an armistice on the 28th of August. While the Mexicans were thus gaining strength for the final struggle, Mr. Trist, the American commissioner entered the city, and submitted terms of peace, which were, after much discussion, rejected, and the armistice terminated September 7th. A week of terrible conflict ensued, in the course of which the Americans forced their way against greatly superior numbers through the strongly fortified suburbs of the city of Mexico. On the 8th, Molino del Rey, with its cannon foundry, was captured; Chapultepec was stormed on the 13th, and, on the following day, General Scott, at the head of his noble army, entered the city of the Montezumas in triumph. Santa Anna and the federal officers had fled, with the remnant of the army. The second conquest of Mexico was substantially complete, although it was yet several months before the guerilla bands were subdued.

General Scott was relieved of his command in Mexico in February, 1848, and arrived in the United States in May. He was given a magnificent reception in the city of New

WINFIELD SCOTT.

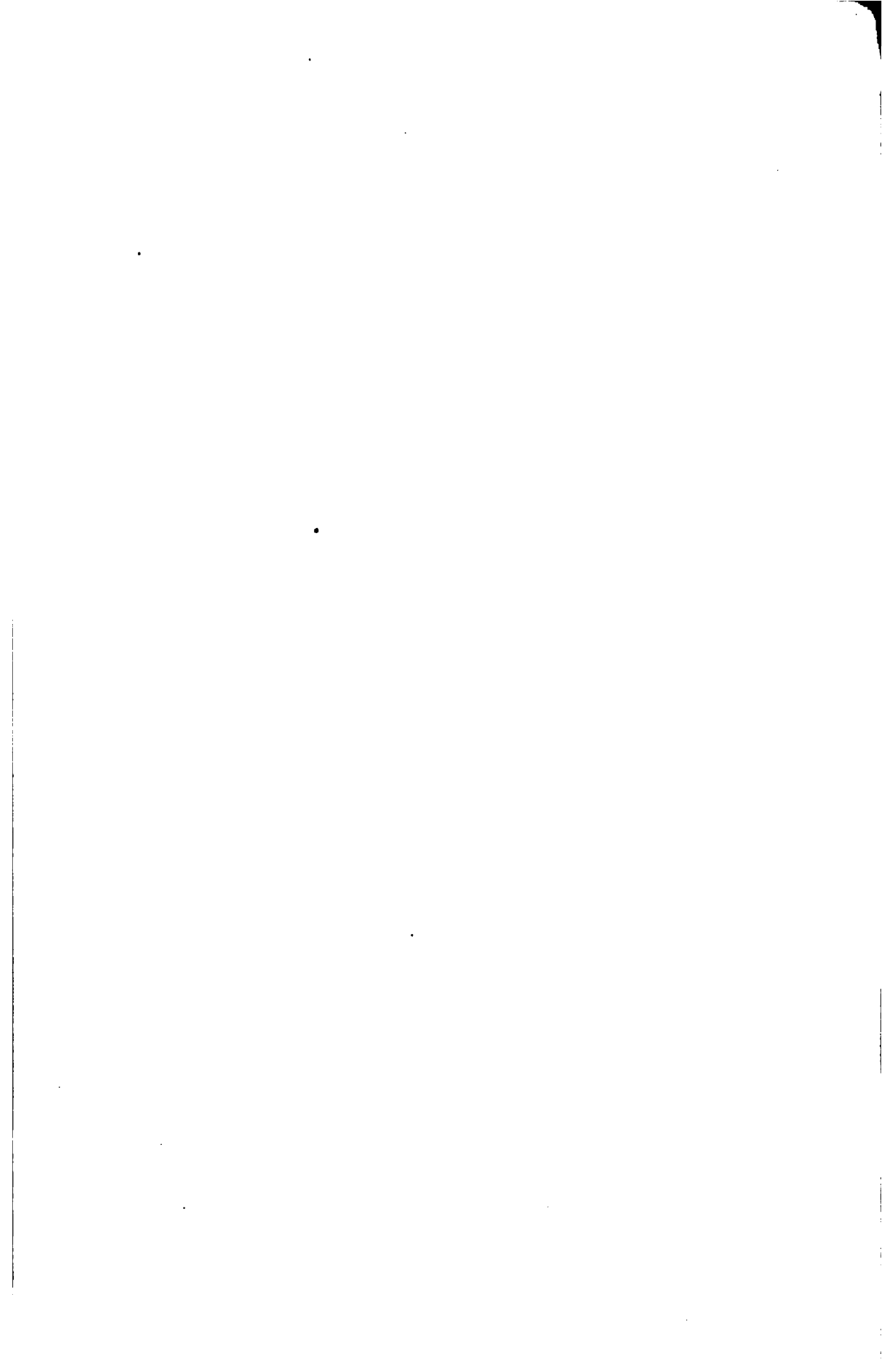
York, received the thanks of Congress with a gold medal, and was, without doubt, the leading military genius of his time on this continent. His command was now limited, however, to the Eastern Department, the Western being given to General Taylor, then the Whig nominee for President. Upon the election of the latter to the chief magistracy, Scott again became sole commander of the army, and he retained that position until his final retirement. He received the Whig nomination for the Presidency in 1852; but had the mortification to be signally defeated by one of the brigadiers who had served under him in Mexico, Franklin Pierce. In 1855, he was made lieutenant-general by brevet, being the first upon whom that rank had been conferred since the death of Washington.

Upon the defection of so many of the regular army officers at the opening of the rebellion, the Southern leaders hoped for the support of General Scott also, as he was a native of their section; but he was thoroughly loyal, and could not be corrupted. He urged upon President Buchanan the necessity of strengthening the garrisons of the Southern forts, to prevent them from falling into the hands of the rebels; but his entreaties were in vain, as the traitors in the Cabinet controlled the actions of the President. General Scott made ample arrangements for the safety of Mr. Lincoln during the inauguration ceremonies, and when it became apparent that the insurgents aimed at the occupation of the National Capital, he took prompt and effective measures to provide for its defence. But the rebellion was rapidly assuming the most unexpected proportions, and the valiant and loyal general, sensible of the infirmities of age, realized that a younger hand was needed to direct the operations of the army in such a desperate crisis. On the 31st of October, 1861, he resigned his commission, and was succeeded by Major-General McClellan. He continued, however, to receive the full pay and allowances of his rank during the remainder

WINFIELD SCOTT.

of his life. After his retirement he made a brief voyage to Europe, and devoted a portion of his time to the compilation of his autobiography, which he published. He died at West Point, N. Y., May 29, 1866, leaving behind him the record of a preëminently honorable public life.



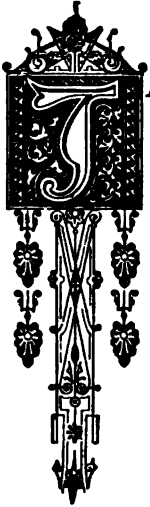


JAMES FENIMORE COOPER.

Painted by J. W. Jarvis. This portrait represents the novelist at the age of thirty-three, just after he had achieved his first signal success. He repeatedly declared it an excellent likeness, and his son, Paul F. Cooper Esq., of Albany, N. Y., the present owner of the original, says that the only criticism to be made with regard to it, is the somewhat heavy appearance of the mouth, which did not, in fact, exist.



JAMES FENIMORE COOPER.



JAMES FENIMORE COOPER imbibed that love for nature which afterward found expression in his wonderful tales of Indian life and adventure, during his earliest childhood, in the wilds of Central New York. Here his father had founded a little settlement to which he gave his own name, and hither he removed with his family, about a year subsequent to the birth of the future novelist, which took place at Burlington, N. J., September 15, 1789. His name was originally simply Cooper, and not until 1826 was it extended, by act of the New York Legislature, into Fenimore-Cooper, in order to preserve his mother's family name from extinction. In his later years the use of the hyphen was entirely discontinued. In due course of time the young man was sent to Yale, and should have graduated in 1806; but having been dismissed from college for neglect of his studies, he was sent to sea in that year in a merchant vessel bound from New York for England. Although his father was now a man of consequence, and had been in Congress, James was shipped as an ordinary seaman. The voyage was continued to Gibraltar, and he did not return to America until September, 1807. Many of the incidents of this period have been reproduced in those sea tales of his which still continue to interest thousands of readers. On New Year's Day, 1808, he was commissioned midshipman in the Navy. On New Year's Day, 1811, he was married to a member of the noted New York Tory family of the De Lanceys. His intervening three

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER.

years of naval service were marked by no event of importance, and a few months after his marriage he resigned his commission. The next nine years were also uneventful ones. He lived, sometimes at Cooperstown, sometimes in his wife's native county of Westchester. What little work he did was of an agricultural nature, overseeing and improving his little estate.

In 1820, he entered suddenly, and without preparation upon his career as an author, and he continued his literary labors with little or no interruption for thirty years. Having become dissatisfied with a novel which he was reading to his wife, he threw the book down with the remark that he could make a better story himself, and forthwith, having previously manifested no aptitude for such work, he proceeded to write "Precaution," in two volumes, which was published in November of the above year. His first novel, in which he followed the beaten track of contemporary English fiction, met with no very flattering success, nor did it deserve it; but "The Spy" which followed a year later was hailed with delight by the reading public, and its gracious reception determined Mr. Cooper to devote himself to the profession of letters. In 1822 he removed to New York City, and applied himself unremittingly to his work. He was possessed of a remarkable fertility of invention, and the "Pioneers," the "Pilot," and the "Last of the Mohicans," followed each other in rapid succession. With the publication of the latter tale in 1826, his reputation was established, and he was now in receipt of a good income from the products of his pen. His fame had gone abroad, and his works were published in England, and translated into the Continental languages. He was acknowledged to be the greatest of American novelists, and no other has yet arisen to dispute his preëminence in the realm of fancy.

He went to Europe with his family in 1826, and for more than seven years he made his residence in various parts of

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER.

the Continent. He held the post of American Consul at Lyons, until January, 1829; but the office seems to have been wholly a sinecure, and without emolument. Each year during his sojourn in Europe he produced a new novel; his popularity remained undiminished, his books were eagerly read as soon as they appeared. Some of his works were even republished in Constantinople and in far Eastern Persia. They are so well known to all Americans, that further reference to their titles is unnecessary. Cooper always loyally sounded the praises of his native country, and bitterly resented the low estimation in which his countrymen were at that time held by many of the English people. Yet, strange to say, after his return from Europe, in 1833, he included among his writings, many strictures upon his fellow countrymen, and also certain political utterances, all of which combined to bring down upon him a storm of abusive criticism, and to criticism, even from the most insignificant persons, he was always morbidly sensitive. During the greater portion of his remaining years, his home was at Cooperstown, and the closing period of his life was to be embittered by controversy. Unfortunately we are yet obliged to depend largely upon the testimony of his enemies for our account of these troubles, as it was his dying request that no memoir of his life should ever be published, and, consequently, all his private memoranda, from which might be evolved his own side of the story, have to this day remained sealed to the public view.

It happened that a certain portion of his father's Coopers-town estate, of which he was the executor, situated on the banks of Otsego Lake, had been for so long a time used by the public, with his tacit permission, as a pleasure resort, that it had come to be regarded by the townspeople as common property; and when Mr. Cooper very properly warned trespassers against injuring the shrubbery, he was treated with insolence. A newspaper in the neighborhood

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER.

gave an account of the affair with distorted facts, and some reflections upon the novelist. Mr. Cooper brought suit for libel, and in May, 1839, obtained a verdict of four hundred dollars. Thus was begun the famous series of Cooper libel suits, which, oddly enough, soon assumed a semi-political character. The editor against whom the first suit was brought chanced to be a Whig, and many other newspapers of that political faith took up the quarrel, charging Mr. Cooper with an attempt to restrict the freedom of the press. One after another suits were brought against them, and, in some instances, several suits against the same journal; not only against country weeklies, but also against the leading Whig newspapers of Albany and New York City; Thurlow Weed and Horace Greeley being among the distinguished defendants. In almost every case Cooper was successful, pleading his own case and winning it from an unfavorable jury. These remarkable suits covered a period of about four years.

In 1839, he brought out his "History of the United States Navy," which will probably always remain the standard work for the period of which it treats, closing with the second war with Great Britain. This, too, brought its libel suit. A writer in the "New York Commercial Advertiser" having taken exceptions to Cooper's account of the battle of "Lake Erie," in language grossly discourteous, suit was brought against the paper, and the case was tried in May, 1842, the novelist scoring another triumph over his calumniators. These vexatious affairs did not interfere with Mr. Cooper's literary activity, which he continued almost to the time of his death. During the last ten years of his life he produced seventeen complete tales, besides contributing to magazines. He also wrote one drama which was soon withdrawn from the stage and never published. He died at his home at Cooperstown, September 14, 1851, only one day before he would have completed his sixty-second year.



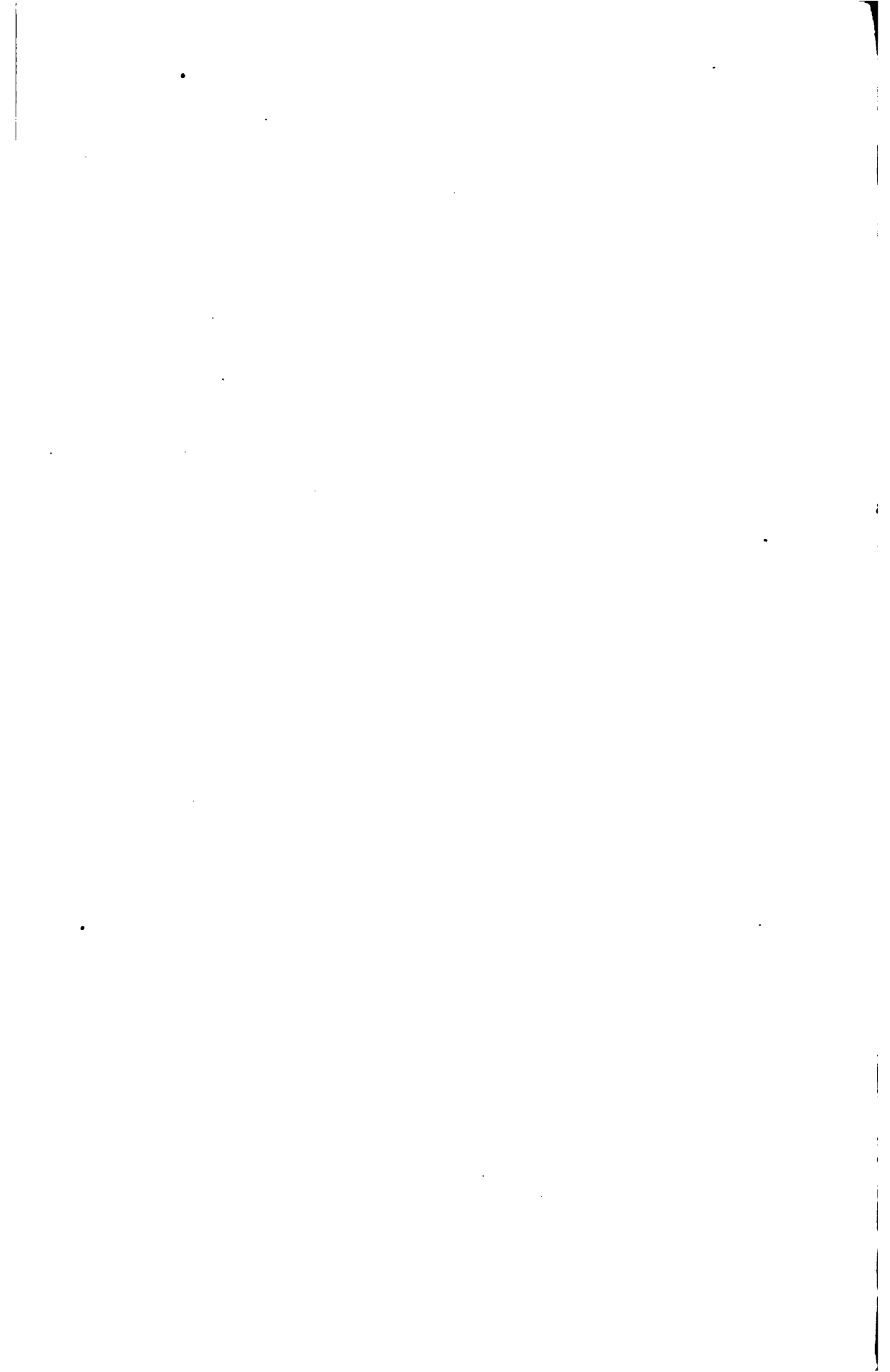
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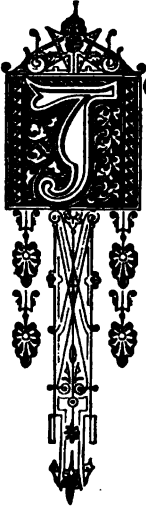
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JOHN TYLER.

By G. P. A. Healy. The original was pronounced by ex-President Tyler, in 1855, to be the best portrait of him extant, and has received the endorsement of his son, Lyon G. Tyler, M. A., President of William and Mary College.



JOHN TYLER.



JOHN TYLER, tenth president of the United States, and the first who attained to that office by constitutional succession, was born at Greenway, Va., March 29, 1790. He inherited the wealth and culture, as well as the intense State pride of one of the leading families of the Old Dominion. At the time of his birth, his father, who bore the same name, was one of the judges of the Virginia General Court, and he subsequently held the office of governor of the State for three years. John Tyler Jr., entered the academical department of William and Mary College in 1803, and the college proper in the ensuing year, graduating in 1807. His legal studies were pursued largely under the direction of his father, and he was admitted to the Virginia bar when he was twenty years old. He was brought up to revere the political faith of Thomas Jefferson, the great founder of the Democratic party; and from the fundamental teachings of that faith he never swerved, not even when, in after years, he became a nominal Whig, and accepted, at the hands of the Whig party, the culminating distinction of his life. His success as a lawyer was brilliant; but he was restless until he found the opportunity to enter upon that public career which proved to be one of such singular good fortune. He was a fluent speaker, and possessed of a grace of manner well calculated to win popular favor. He was

JOHN TYLER.

eager for popularity, and he gained it with ease, without, however, descending to the use of any dishonorable means to secure the desired end.

In December, 1811, he entered the Virginia House of Delegates, and for five years he was one of the most prominent workers in that body. During this period occurred the second war with England, and Mr. Tyler was not behind his neighbors in patriotism. He raised and commanded a company of riflemen who were not, however, called into the field. During the closing year of his service in the Legislature, he was chosen a member of the executive council. This office he held but a short time, resigning it to contest a vacant seat in Congress. There was no difference between the political opinions of the competitors, and Mr. Tyler won the election through the sheer force of his personal popularity. This popularity, which, owing to his own family connection, was already great, he had shrewdly increased by his marriage, in March, 1813, with Letitia Christian, a member of one of the leading Federalist families of the State. He took his seat in Congress at the session succeeding that in which the second United States Bank had been chartered. This institution met with Mr. Tyler's unyielding hostility, and he never failed to embrace an opportunity to attempt its destruction. In all other points he was in the closest accord with the extreme State rights wing of the Democratic party; and, in common with that short-sighted class of statesmen, now happily divested of influence in American politics, he persistently opposed all measures of internal improvement by the general government, being blinded by his sectional narrowness to the true interests of his country. He was reelected in 1817, and opposed the recognition of the revolted South American Republics.

In 1818, General Jackson's course in the Florida war was made the subject of investigation by Congress, and it

JOHN TYLER.

was condemned in no uncertain terms by Mr. Tyler. In thus doing what he honestly considered to be his duty, he incurred Jackson's lifelong displeasure, and, unconsciously, opened a breach, which, fifteen years later, was to separate him from his party. There was no opposition to Mr. Tyler's reelection in 1819; but failing health compelled him to relinquish his seat after one more year's service. The next two years were spent quietly on his farm, where he happily regained his health, and, in 1823, he again entered the Virginia Legislature. Two years later he had the honor of being elected governor of his native State, a merited honor; for, whatever may be thought of his conduct in national affairs, he certainly deserved well of Virginia, to which, according to his views, his first allegiance was due. On the 11th of July, 1826, Governor Tyler delivered, at Richmond, an eloquent eulogy upon Thomas Jefferson, whose death had occurred a week before. Mr. Tyler's administration as Governor of Virginia was so acceptable to the State, that he was unanimously reelected to the office by the Legislature, in 1826. He did not, however, complete his second term. There was much opposition to the reelection of John Randolph to the National Senate, an opposition which was heightened by the influence of Clay and Webster. But to beat John Randolph required the strongest candidate in Virginia, and that was John Tyler, who was elected United States Senator by a majority of five votes out of the two hundred and twenty-five.

Although there was no good feeling between Jackson and Tyler, the latter so far forgot his personal preferences as to aid in Jackson's election to the presidency. But gradually he fell more and more into opposition to his administration. As ever, he opposed the bank. He opposed the high tariff which was so obnoxious to the Southern people, and, indeed, he generally favored the extreme Southern view of public affairs, under the leadership of John C. Calhoun. But what

JOHN TYLER.

finally put Tyler in square antagonism to the Jackson administration, was the President's patriotic course in the nullification business, in 1832. Tyler did not, it is true, wholly approve of the rash measures adopted by South Carolina; but while nullification met with only his feeble disapproval, coercion of a sovereign State, on the part of the central government, incurred his most vehement condemnation. In opposing the force bill, authorizing the President to use the army and navy against the disaffected State, he went to the length of denying that he was a citizen of the United States. His vote was the only one given in the Senate against the bill, the rest of the opposition leaving the chamber before the vote was taken.

John Tyler was reelected to the Senate in 1833. He was always an admirer of Henry Clay, though differing widely from him on many vital questions. In this year Clay introduced his compromise tariff measure, which Tyler warmly supported. In this strange way, without in any manner changing his convictions, did he drift toward the Whig party. That party, to be sure, was at that time largely made up of a motley assemblage of politicians of every stripe, bound together by the frail tie of personal opposition to General Jackson. On the question of slavery Mr. Tyler held some peculiar views. He was a slaveholder, as a matter of course; but he was the kindest of masters. If possible, he would have provided for gradual emancipation, and he was not opposed to the right of petition, as were the more intense partisans of the slave-power. In 1833, he voted for the resolutions censuring President Jackson for his conduct in the bank controversy, and his connection with the Democratic party was finally severed. The Whigs, very unwisely, and without sufficient reflection, proposed him as candidate for the vice-presidency, and Tyler accepted the honor thus thrust upon him. The Legislature of Virginia was not pleased with the course of Mr. Tyler, in voting to censure

JOHN TYLER.

the President, and instructed him to vote for Benton's famous expunging resolution. Now, the right of legislatures to instruct senators in Congress was one of Tyler's cardinal principles; he could not conscientiously vote to forgive Jackson, and so he adopted the honorable alternative of resigning his seat. He had been twenty-five years in the service of the public, had given general satisfaction, and had preserved a reputation without a blemish. The two years of repose which he now enjoyed were very welcome to him. In the presidential election of 1836 he received the votes of forty-seven Whig electors for Vice-President.

In 1838, he was again chosen a member of the Legislature; and, in December of the following year, he was a delegate to the Whig National Convention, and received from that body the nomination for Vice-President. The campaign cry of 1840 was "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," the Whigs carefully avoiding, in their rallying speeches, any allusion to the political views of their vice-presidential candidate. In the ensuing election, Mr. Tyler received the votes of the same two hundred and thirty-four electors who voted for General Harrison, and he qualified as Vice-President, March 4, 1841. After the inaugural ceremonies he retired to his residence at Williamsburg, Va.; but in just one month he was suddenly called to the chief-magistracy, through the untimely death of President Harrison.

Mr. Tyler immediately went to Washington, where he took his oath of office as President of the United States, April 6, 1841. Some thoughtless persons raised a question as to his proper title, and even the Cabinet, after grave discussion, decided to address him as "Acting President," which decision Mr. Tyler very properly ignored. It has been the fashion to represent President Tyler as unfaithful to his party. This is not exactly the truth. The fact is that the Whigs put him on their ticket solely on account of his personal popularity, and as they were willing to over-

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look his well-known views on the tariff and the bank, they were scarcely justified in denouncing him for his steady adherence to those views. At all events, he became entirely estranged from the party who had elected him, by his successive vetoes of two different acts for establishing a bank, or "Fiscal Corporation," and the Cabinet, with the exception of Mr. Webster, the Secretary of State, resigned in September. Of course, this condition of things was hailed with delight by the Democrats, who turned the discomfiture of the Whigs to good account, without, however, actually endorsing Mr. Tyler's administration.

The leading event of this administration was, undoubtedly, the acquisition of Texas. A treaty for that purpose was rejected by the Senate in 1844; but in the following spring it was accomplished by "joint resolution," very much to Mr. Tyler's satisfaction. One State, Florida, was admitted to the Union while he was President. In 1842, after one tariff bill had been vetoed, another, much modified, received Mr. Tyler's approval. In the same year occurred the almost bloodless Dorr war in Rhode Island, the last attempt to settle political differences by force of arms in New England; and the settlement of the Northeastern boundary disputes by the Ashburton Treaty. The year 1842 also brought domestic sorrow to the presidential household, Mrs. Tyler, who had long been an invalid, dying at the Executive mansion on the 10th of September.

In February, 1844, Mr. Tyler and his Cabinet, together with a number of other guests, including ladies, were invited to witness the working of the new war steamer *Princeton*, designed by the celebrated John Ericsson, on her trial trip on the Potomac. During the trip the great gun "Peacemaker" was fired several times, and at length it exploded, killing Mr. Upshur, Secretary of State, Mr. Gilmer, Secretary of the Navy, and several others, among them a Mr. Gardner, of New York, to whose daughter Mr. Tyler was married four

JOHN TYLER.

months subsequently. The second Mrs. Tyler was one of the most brilliant of the ladies who have graced the White House. President Tyler delighted to honor men of letters, and some of the most illustrious names in American literature are to be found among the diplomatic appointments of this administration. The year 1844 was rendered memorable by the completion of the first line of electric telegraph.

Mr. Tyler, while he alienated the Whigs, did not sufficiently ingratiate himself with the Democrats to gain a renomination from them. He was nominated by an independent convention; but soon withdrew his name. At the close of his term, in 1845, he retired to his farm at Sherwood Forest, on the banks of the James River, where he lived the life of a plain country gentleman, making occasional appearances in public as an orator, until the breaking out of the Rebellion. He received the degree of LL. D. from his *alma mater*, William and Mary, in 1854, and, in 1859, was elected chancellor of that college, an office which had remained vacant since the death of Washington. In February, 1861, he was a delegate to that farce which was known as the "Peace Convention," and was chosen its president. It is with regret that we are compelled to add that he was a member of the Virginia Secession Convention, in March, 1861, that his name was proposed as President of the so-called Southern Confederacy, and that he was elected to the rebel congress. He never took his seat, however, in that body, but died at his lodgings in Richmond, January 18, 1862, almost unnoticed amid the tumults of civil war, outside of his native State.





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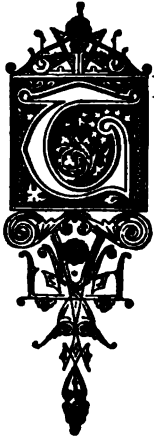


MOY VAN
CLARK
FRANK

PETER COOPER.

From life. Taken only three weeks prior to Mr. Cooper's death, and considered by his family to be the most perfect likeness in existence.

PETER COOPER.



HE wise and philanthropic disposition of great wealth, the honest accumulation of years of industry and judicious management, has rendered conspicuous among the benefactors of the race the name of Peter Cooper, and has caused it to be held in grateful remembrance by the American people. His perseverance and determination in times of discouragement and apparent failure are interesting to contemplate, and worthy of imitation. He was born in the city of New York, February 12, 1791. Shortly after his birth, his father, who was a hatter by trade, opened a general store at Peekskill; but the venture did not prove profitable, as the business was carried on too extensively upon credit. Mr. Cooper then resumed his original calling, and at this trade of hat making young Peter found his first employment while he was yet so small as to be obliged to stand on a box in order to reach up to the bench where he was occupied in removing the hair from rabbit-skins. His aptitude for all kinds of mechanical work was remarkable. He learned to make very respectable shoes simply by examining the construction of an old pair. A little later, he designed a tide-mill which even Robert Fulton thought it worth his while to examine.

By the time Peter had become pretty well acquainted with the hatter's trade, his father sold out his manufactory, and purchased a brewery, and it now became the duty of the

PETER COOPER.

young man to deliver the kegs of beer to customers. The next move of the family was to Catskill, where its support was derived partly from hat making, and partly from brick making. Of this latter industry Peter got a good knowledge, as, indeed, he uniformly did of the various trades in which he engaged. After this he was successively employed in the hat business in Brooklyn, and in a brewery in Newburg, and all these varied experiences came to him before he was seventeen years of age. It may well be believed that his opportunities for obtaining any education beyond this very practical one were surely quite small.

In his seventeenth year he was apprenticed to a coach builder, and at this trade he worked four years, receiving, beside his board, only twenty-five dollars each year, but adding a little to his store by working over hours. He became quite expert at this business; but never had occasion to work at it in after years. It is not surprising that having been trained so thoroughly in mechanical pursuits, he should develop the inventive faculty to a considerable degree. While engaged in the coach-building trade he made a machine for mortising the hubs of wheels, which proved of much value to his employer. At the age of twenty-one he went to Hempstead, on Long Island, and there entered into an engagement with a manufacturer of cloth-shearing machines. He continued at this business as a workman for about three years, his wages being one dollar and a half a day, for those times a very respectable amount. He was married in 1813. After a time he bought the right to manufacture the shearing machines in the State of New York, having introduced several important improvements into their construction. His first sale on his own account was made to Mr. Vassar, him who many years afterward founded the college at Poughkeepsie which bears his name. He met with excellent success in this business for about three years, when, owing to the increased importation of foreign cloths consequent upon the resumption

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of trade with England, after the close of the war, the demand for his machines fell off. The first five hundred dollars of his savings he employed to satisfy the demands of his father's creditors, and save him from becoming bankrupt. It was his invariable rule to meet his own obligations with promptness; and he was accustomed to relate, with pardonable pride, that no one of his employees (and they came to be numbered by thousands) ever had to wait for his pay after it became due.

Mr. Cooper's next venture was as a grocer, and again fortune smiled upon him. He now began to make careful investments in New York real estate; and, in time, became a member of the city government, in which position he was one of the leading advocates of the introduction of Croton water into the metropolis. After remaining in trade for three years he sold out, and reinvested his capital in a factory for the manufacture of glue, isinglass, and other substances. This business proved permanent and highly remunerative. Upon the expiration, after twenty-one years, of the lease of the land in New York upon which his factory was built, the establishment was removed to Brooklyn.

In 1828 Mr. Cooper purchased, in connection with a few other gentlemen, a tract of three thousand acres of land in the city of Baltimore, the price paid being one hundred and five thousand dollars. His partners, who had been represented to him as men of means, proved to be without capital, and he was forced to carry the whole burden himself. In order to utilize a portion of this purchase he erected extensive iron works. In connection with these he caused several kilns to be built for making charcoal, and while visiting one of these he had a narrow escape from being killed by an explosion of gas. At this time the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was in process of construction; but the difficulties were so great that many of the stockholders were losing confidence in the success of the enterprise. It was

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thought to be impossible to build a locomotive which could draw trains around the sharp curves which existed in the road. At this juncture the genius of Peter Cooper was interposed to save the great undertaking from failure. He designed, and in 1830 completed the construction of the first American locomotive. The trial trip was made without accident, and to the satisfaction of the stockholders. Confidence was restored, and the road was speedily finished. Thus, in a certain sense, Peter Cooper may be looked upon as the father of the mighty railroad system of America.

Mr. Cooper was intimately connected with the great iron industry in various forms during the remainder of his life, resigning the burden of his affairs, in extreme old age, to his son, Edward, and his son-in-law, Abram S. Hewitt. Both of these gentlemen have been honored with the mayoralty of the American metropolis, Mr. Cooper during his honored father's lifetime. After disposing of the Baltimore foundry, Peter Cooper established a rolling mill in New York, and there the first cast-iron beams for use in the construction of fire-proof buildings were made. Subsequently he erected a wire drawing factory at Trenton, N. J., and, in 1845, the great Trenton Iron Works. He also became largely interested in mining operations in Pennsylvania. His mind was continually active in perfecting improved processes of manufacture in the different branches of industry in which he was engaged. As has been said, he amassed a large fortune, which was liberally used for the amelioration of the condition of the working classes, and he became connected with all kinds of philanthropic movements. He was, without doubt, the most widely known citizen of New York of his day.

Peter Cooper was especially active in aiding the construction of the submarine telegraph, at first across the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and subsequently across the Atlantic. He was the president of the first company which was formed for that purpose, in 1854; and during the twelve years of dis-

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heartening defeats which intervened before success crowned the enterprise, he never for a moment lost confidence. The value of his efforts in behalf of the Atlantic cable was second only to those of Cyrus W. Field.

The crowning glory of Mr. Cooper's life, was the erection and endowment of the Cooper Union in the city of New York, thus furnishing an opportunity whereby industrious youth of limited means might obtain the education which had been denied him in his own younger days. Three quarters of a million were devoted to this munificent object. His useful life extended far beyond the ordinary limit. In his eighty-sixth year he accepted a nomination for President of the United States at the hands of the "Greenback" party, whose financial theories he had adopted; and his defeat implied no diminution of the high regard in which he was universally held. He died in New York, April 4, 1883, in his ninety-third year, and the void which he left has never yet been filled.







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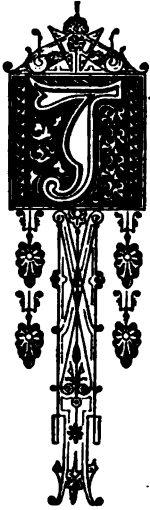


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JAMES BUCHANAN.

By G. P. A. Healy. Corcoran Gallery.

JAMES BUCHANAN.



JAMES BUCHANAN was born near Mercersburg, Penn., April 23, 1791. His father, who was of Irish birth, was a well-to-do merchant and farmer. James entered Dickinson College in 1807. While there, some youthful mischief very nearly resulted in his expulsion; in consequence of which he never felt very kindly toward his *alma mater*, and it was partly on that account, that, nearly sixty years later, he declined to endow a scholarship in the college. Graduating in 1809, he at once commenced the study of the law, and was licensed to practise in 1812. His early political opinions were those of a moderate federalist opposed to the war; yet he promptly joined a company of dragoons, at Lancaster, for the defence of Baltimore. In 1814, he became a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature. He served two terms, and then retired to attend to his rapidly growing and valuable practice. Mr. Buchanan never married. A young lady to whom he was sincerely attached, died in 1819, and as a palliative for his grief, he decided again to enter upon a political life. In 1820, he was elected to Congress as a federalist, in one of the isolated districts where that party still maintained its existence. He soon became a prominent debater, and gradually modified his opinions, until he came into sympathy with the democratic administration. In the election of 1824, he was a supporter

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of General Jackson, and he was one of the most determined opponents of John Quincy Adams. He voluntarily retired from Congress in 1831, at the close of his tenth year of service.

A few months later President Jackson offered Mr. Buchanan the Russian mission. Having accepted the appointment, he sailed for Europe in April, 1832, and met with a very kind reception from the Imperial family. Though his stay in Russia was short, he negotiated an important commercial treaty. After accomplishing this object he made a brief visit to Moscow, and there took his leave of the Emperor in August, 1833. His return voyage included Paris and London, and he reached his home at Lancaster, Penn., in November. The ensuing year was spent in retirement. On the 6th of December, 1834, he was elected to the United States Senate, and at once took his seat in that body. He was now, and ever remained, one of the most influential members of the long dominant Democratic party. He acquitted himself with credit, though brought face to face with those giants of debate, Clay and Webster. In the early stages of the slavery controversy he argued in favor of the reception of anti-slavery petitions with the understanding that they were to be rejected; but every concession made to the slave barons of the South for the perpetuation of their peculiar system, and, consequently, of their political supremacy, met with Mr. Buchanan's unhesitating approval.

He remained in the Senate a little over ten years, declining to enter Mr. Van Buren's cabinet as attorney-general. He supported President Tyler after his rupture with the Whig party, and aspired to be his successor; but withdrew from the field in favor of Mr. Polk in 1844, and, when the latter gentleman became president, Mr. Buchanan resigned his senatorship to become Secretary of State, which office he held during the four years of

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Mr. Polk's administration. He conducted personally and with great skill the negotiations with the British commissioner, Packenham, by which the Oregon disputes were finally settled, in 1846. In 1849 he retired to private life with the intention of never again leaving it. He had just purchased the estate of Wheatlands, near Lancaster, and he there established his bachelor home. His immediate family consisted of a nephew and a niece whom he had adopted and educated as his own children. The niece, Miss Lane, was afterward the accomplished and universally admired mistress of the White House during the presidency of her venerable uncle. In 1852 Mr. Buchanan was again an unsuccessful candidate for the democratic presidential nomination, but he dutifully took the stump for his successful opponent, Mr. Pierce. In the distribution of favors after Mr. Pierce's inauguration, Mr. Buchanan's share was the English mission.

He arrived in England in August, 1853, and remained there until March, 1856. During part of that time Miss Lane was with him, and both uncle and niece were received with great favor by the English aristocracy. His mission was rendered memorable by his connection with an affair very disgraceful to our country; the publication of the document known as the Ostend Manifesto. In October, 1854, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Mason, the minister to France, and Mr. Soulé, the minister to Spain, met in Aix-la-Chapelle and Ostend, to consider the question of the acquisition of Cuba, which was earnestly desired by the slaveholders. Their conclusions were embodied in a report to our government, in which they recommended that the United States should gain possession of Cuba at any hazard,—by purchase if possible, if not, by force. Probably the other members of the conference were more to blame in this matter than Mr. Buchanan; but he weakly followed their guidance, yielding as he always did, as if fascinated

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by the slave power, and he has had to bear his share of the odium. A few months after his return from England, he received the Democratic nomination for President, and, in November, 1856, he was elected over Mr. Frémont, the Republican candidate. He was inaugurated March 4, 1857.

The four years of Mr. Buchanan's administration were years of political excitement, unprecedented in the history of the country. The leaders of public sentiment at the South had now fully decided to make the experiment of a slaveholding confederacy; and, in their disloyal schemes, they enjoyed the active coöperation of a majority of Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet. He himself, if not admitted to their entire confidence, must have been largely cognizant of their plans; and although it is generally conceded that he did not look with favor upon actual secession, yet, he was so far in harmony with their ideas and principles, that he possessed neither courage nor inclination to make any resistance to the conspiracy. The weight of his years may be allowed to count for what it is worth; but it should be remembered that he entered upon the presidency at exactly the same age,—sixty-six— as President Jackson was at the opening of his second term, during which he stamped out secession with the vigor of a man of half his years.

Mr. Buchanan found the country in a state of intense excitement, owing to the outrages committed upon the settlers in Kansas by the invading border ruffians of Missouri. The constitution, with slavery, which was drawn up by this savage rabble, was accepted by Mr. Buchanan, and by him submitted to Congress, with a message recommending its ratification, although he well knew that it was distasteful to a large majority of the *bona fide* settlers, and that its framers had no shadow of right to be considered as citizens of Kansas. Congress wisely

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rejected such an instrument, and the controversy continued until a few months before the close of the term, when Kansas was admitted as a free State. The Dred Scott decision, by Chief Justice Taney, of the Supreme Court, which denied to negroes the rights of citizens, and which Americans now look back to with shame, was published in the early days of this administration. The decision had been made before Mr. Buchanan's election; but it was kept secret, as its authors well knew that its influence at the North would be greatly in Mr. Frémont's favor. In 1859 came the ill-advised attempt of John Brown to excite insurrection among the slaves of Virginia, adding fresh fuel to the flames of discord.

With regard to foreign affairs the course of Mr. Buchanan's administration was highly creditable to our country, and for this he is personally entitled to a great degree of credit. His diplomatic ability far exceeded his statesmanship. One matter of importance which was settled, was that long-standing grievance against England, — her assumed right to search American vessels suspected of being slavers. The President's firm remonstrances, backed by a naval force, secured the final renunciation of these claims. An expedition was also sent to Paraguay, to demand reparation for injuries committed upon an American war vessel. These difficulties were also satisfactorily adjusted. In 1860 Mr. Buchanan and his accomplished niece had the pleasure of entertaining, at the White House, the Prince of Wales and his suite. In 1858 the first Atlantic cable was successfully laid, and congratulations were exchanged between the President and the Queen. In the same year a serious insurrection among the Mormons of Utah was quelled.

Harassed by the cares of State he declined to be a candidate for reelection; indeed, the Southern leaders, now thoroughly prepared for rebellion, had decided among

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themselves that no Democrat should be elected. To effect their purpose, they refused to accept the regular candidate in 1860, Mr. Douglas, and nominated Mr. Breckinridge, so dividing the party and rendering Mr. Lincoln's election certain. Mr. Buchanan's halting course at the outbreak of the rebellion is one of the saddest chapters of our history. As he himself acknowledged, his conduct pleased neither section of the country. Within the three dark closing months of his term of office, the desperate politicians in seven States, without consulting the people, had dissolved the relations of those States with the Union, formed the so-called Southern Confederacy, and elected Jefferson Davis as its head. The President looked on as if paralyzed; and it can only be said to his credit, that he did nothing to aid the disloyal enterprise which he might have done so much to hinder. During his administration three States were added to the Union,—Kansas, Oregon, and Minnesota.

On March 4, 1861, after attending the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Buchanan retired from public life. He lived to see the restoration of peace. Throughout the war his sympathies were with the opposition to President Lincoln's administration. His private character, in marked distinction to his course in public affairs, was absolutely beyond reproach. His manners were simple, and his bearing was courtly. He was honorable and upright, and his morals were without a stain. He published, in 1865, a defence of his conduct as President. He died at Wheatland, June 1, 1868.





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NOV 21 1837

S. F. B. MORSE.

Portrait by Brady.

S. F. B. MORSE.



AMUEL FINLEY BREESE MORSE was born close by the battle ground of Bunker Hill, in Charlestown, Mass., April 27, 1791. He was the son of a Congregationalist preacher of eminence, and received his education at Andover and Yale. He had a natural talent for portraiture, and while at college he earned considerable money by painting miniatures for the students. He graduated in 1810. He had at this time formed no definite plans for the future, but was possessed of an intense ambition to become a painter. He had hitherto received little or no instruction in art; but a year later his father was able, by rigid economy, to provide the means to send him to Europe, under the tutorship of the celebrated artist, Washington Allston. For about five years he continued his studies in London, under the guidance of Allston and West, and made creditable progress. He was also fortunate in obtaining admission to the society of many of the leading artists and literary men of the great city. His paintings received favorable comment; and, to his surprise, a model in clay of the "Dying Hercules" gained for him a gold medal from the Society of Arts. He returned to America in 1815.

He was now obliged to rely upon the products of his brush for his support. He fitted up a studio in Boston, where his pictures were admired, but not bought; but he met with fair

success as a portrait painter. About this time he devised, in connection with a brother, certain important improvements in pumps, and realized something from their manufacture and sale. He also travelled through Vermont and New Hampshire, making portraits, and soon acquiring celebrity in his profession. At Concord, he met with the lady, to whom, after making a professional trip to the South, he was married in 1818. He made two other journeys, as far South as Charleston, and received more orders than he could attend to. Among his sitters at Washington was President Monroe, whose portrait he painted for the city of Charleston.

In 1820, he removed with his family to New Haven, where he exercised his inventive faculties, in his hours of leisure, upon a machine for cutting marble. In 1823, after a short residence at Albany, he established his permanent business headquarters at New York, opening a studio on Broadway. In the following year, having been disappointed in the matter of an expected appointment as attaché to the Mexican legation, he again made an artistic tour of New England. In 1825, he painted a portrait of Lafayette for the city of New York; and, in the same year, he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife. In 1826, he became president of the National Academy of Design, and this office he held for nineteen years. Long before the expiration of that period he had forever abandoned art as a profession, and had devoted himself to the investigation of electricity and magnetism, the results of which were to immortalize his name and place it alongside that of Benjamin Franklin. His interest in the subject dated back to his college days; but it was not until about 1826 that he began to think deeply upon it. From 1829 until 1832 he was in Europe, chiefly in Rome and Paris, engaged partly in the study of the old masters, and partly in learning the views of eminent scientific men upon the possibility of conveying intelligence by electricity; for he was not alone in his search. It was on his return voyage

that he caught at the sublime idea in advance of any of his competitors.

In October, 1832, on board the ship *Sully*, a conversation took place upon the subject of electricity, in the course of which it flashed upon Mr. Morse's mind, that since, as was stated, the electric current could be made to manifest its presence instantly at any point in a wire circuit, such manifestations could be used to transmit intelligence. He not only expressed himself to this effect, but at once began the construction of instruments to prove the truth of his proposition. Drawings were made, and exhibited to the passengers on the *Sully*, and the set of signals invented, now known as the Morse alphabet, the telegraphic language of the world to-day.

Hardly had he set foot on shore before he hastened to inform his two brothers of his invention. He was without money, his European trip having exhausted his resources. In a little room, furnished by the brothers, he established his workshop. His life for the twelve succeeding years was a constant struggle against disappointment of every kind. At times he was actually reduced to a state of destitution. He had hoped to provide for his needs by painting a large historical piece in the Capitol at Washington ; but his failure to receive the desired commission seems to have destroyed all his old artistic ambition, his further efforts in that direction being limited to desultory portrait painting or occasional instruction in art, simply as a means of keeping the wolf from the door. By the year 1835, he had so far perfected his invention that he transmitted messages through a half mile of wire suspended around his room. Two years later he took steps to secure a patent, and made formal application to Congress for a sum of money sufficient to enable him to construct an experimental out-door line. In January, 1838, he publicly exhibited his apparatus, establishing communication through ten miles of wire, and demonstrating the

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feasibility of doing the same with a wire of any desired length. In the same year he went to Europe, and succeeded in attracting very favorable notice from many distinguished persons; but he failed to obtain a patent in England, and the patent which he received in France proved to be of no value to him. In this country Mr. Morse was very generally regarded as a crack-brained enthusiast, and his invention as a scientific toy upon which it was not worth while to spend the public money. The four years which followed upon his return to America, marked the lowest point in the fortunes of this great inventor. The insensibility of the people to his wonderful achievement was astounding.

At length the tide turned. He had petitioned Congress time and time again for assistance, without success; but on February 23, 1843, a bill passed the House of Representatives making the desired appropriation. It was so near the close of the session that Mr. Morse despaired of its passage by the Senate; but his despair was turned to joy, when he learned on the morning of the 4th of March, that his bill had passed, the last enactment before the expiration of the Twenty-Seventh Congress, and that he had thirty thousand dollars at his disposal for the construction of a line from Washington to Baltimore. This line was completed in the following year, and one of the first messages announced the nomination of Mr. Polk for the presidency. While in Europe, Mr. Morse had met Daguerre, and learned his newly invented process, and on his return to America he constructed a camera, and had the honor of being the first to make a sun picture in the United States. As early as 1842 he had made successful experiments in submarine telegraphy in New York harbor.

Although he was now reasonably sure of final success, he was yet for several years burdened by lawsuits with persons who attempted to deprive him of the honor and profit so justly his due; and it was some time before he was able to

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induce capitalists to purchase rights to construct lines of telegraph, the government having declined to assume ownership in connection with the post-office department. Wheatstone in England, and Steinhilber in Germany, reaped the reward of their labors more quickly than did Professor Morse; in both these countries lines of electric telegraph were in active operation before the electro-magnetic line between Baltimore and Washington was begun; but the European telegraphic systems were much more complicated than the Morse system and made no legible record of their messages. At length, however, fortune smiled upon Morse also, and, for once at least, we see an inventor enjoying, in his own lifetime, both honor and pecuniary benefit. In 1847 he purchased an estate at Poughkeepsie, and here the long homeless father and his scattered children were once more united in domestic comfort. Mr. Morse remarried in 1848.

High honors were conferred upon him by almost every nation on the globe. No American citizen before his time ever received such distinguished notice from foreign governments. Medals, decorations, orders of knighthood, were given without stint to the modest man who could rarely be prevailed upon to display his insignia. In 1856 he visited Europe and was entertained by the King of Denmark, the Emperor of Russia, and a long list of royal and noble personages, as well as by learned societies and civic bodies. In 1857 he went to England in the interest of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, of which he was the electrician until it passed into English hands. He crossed the Atlantic again in 1858, and upon landing in England he was greeted with the intelligence of the successful completion of the cable. He at once prophesied its speedy failure owing to its imperfect construction, and a few days' trial proved the correctness of his opinion. In this year the leading continental governments united in presenting Professor Morse with a purse of four hundred thousand francs in recognition of his eminent

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service to mankind. The winter was spent with a married daughter in the West Indies, and he returned home in 1859.

His last voyage to Europe was made in 1866, and his visit was extended to about two years. The rest of his long life was passed in well-earned ease and comfort. In 1871, being then eighty years of age, he had the peculiar honor to witness the unveiling of his own statue, in Central Park, New York. Upon the evening of the same day, the 10th of June, a great gathering was held at the Academy of Music. A wire had been brought into the building by which telegraphic connection was established with all the leading cities of Europe and America. The instrument on the platform was the one he had used during his early experiments, in want and adversity. To the four corners of the earth flashed the message "Peace on earth, good will to men;" and when the venerable man, with his own hand, signalled his signature, S. F. B. Morse, the thunders of applause betokened the estimation in which he was held by his fellow-citizens. Mr. Morse was very benevolent; was the author of several books, and never lost his keen artistic sense and love for the beautiful. He was last seen in public, January 17, 1872, at the the dedication of the Franklin statue near the New York City Hall. After that his health declined rapidly, and he died on the 2d of April.





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THADDEUS STEVENS.

From an original now in the possession of the artist, I. L.
Williams, of Philadelphia, who also executed
a copy for Mr. Stevens himself.



THADDEUS STEVENS.



HE "Old Commoner," as he came to be called in his later years, was born in Danville, in the State of Vermont, April 4, 1792. His parents, like the majority of the inhabitants of their section, were in humble circumstances, and, while they gladly made sacrifices in order to aid their talented son, yet he was compelled to depend mainly upon his own exertions. It was well, for the somewhat delicate lad became a self-reliant and manly youth, and later developed into the man of iron will and generous heart. He obtained a good common-school education, and in time commenced his classical studies at the academy in the adjoining town of Peacham. At the close of his preparatory course, in 1810, he entered the University of Vermont. At the end of two years this institution was forced to suspend operations on account of the trouble caused by the war with England, and Stevens continued his studies at Dartmouth. About this time his father died in the service of his country. To his widowed mother he was ever a most dutiful son, and in his after years of prosperity he made her frequent visits and bountifully provided for her wants. Even in his old age he honored her memory by bequeathing a sum of money to the church of which she had been a member. He graduated in 1814, and then, after reading law for a short time at Peacham, he bade a final adieu to his native State, for which, however,

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and for whose people, he ever retained a most affectionate interest.

Pennsylvania was the State of his adoption. For a year or so he supported himself by teaching in the academy at York, while prosecuting his legal studies. Not having passed a year in an attorney's office, as required by the rules of court in that district, he was obliged to go to Maryland for admission to the bar; but he immediately returned to Pennsylvania, and established a law office at Gettysburg. This was in the summer of 1816. Here he continued to practise for sixteen years, during which time he accumulated some property which would have been much greater in amount had it not been for his lavish private charities. As a lawyer he stood in the front rank in his profession, and was master of every weapon of debate. His retentive memory enabled him to plead his cases with few notes, or none at all. Students he did not care to take into his office, unless they were poor, and showed a willingness to help themselves, and then they were welcome to his valuable assistance.

About the year 1828, he began to engage in politics. The party with which he at first identified himself was that strange one whose principles and aims seem at the present day well-nigh unintelligible, — the Anti-Masonic party. It started as a local agitation in the State of New York, consequent upon the real or supposed abduction, in 1826, of a man named Morgan, for revealing certain secrets of the brotherhood; and in a few years the movement spread into other States, until, absurd as it now appears, it came to bear an important part in national politics. By the votes of members of this party, Stevens was sent to the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1833, and was many times reelected. It was his fortune always to be in advance of the public sentiment of his day. His greatest service to Pennsylvania was his ardent support of the free school movement. On this question he antagonized many members of his own party, and had honest words

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of praise for those of his political opponents who coincided with his views with regard to public education. He was appointed Canal Commissioner in 1838, and, in 1841, was again in the Legislature.

But, above everything else, Thaddeus Stevens was an abolitionist. Living, as he did, on the very borders of the slave territory, and among a people who were in sympathy with their Southern neighbors, he, nevertheless, contended fearlessly for the right of free speech, and, by his irrefutable arguments, he compelled the removal of what was termed the "slaveholder's gag," and obtained a respectful hearing for the advocates of freedom. He was the constant friend of the fugitive slave, and, while resident at Gettysburg, he saved many of them from the fate of a return to their masters. Upon one occasion, during the earlier years of his professional career, he was journeying to Baltimore for the purpose of purchasing books for his law library. Stopping for the night at a Maryland tavern, he was approached by a negro woman, in great distress, who entreated him to use his influence with the landlord to prevent the sale of her husband, who, as it happened, was not only the landlord's slave, but his son, as well. The unnatural master could not be moved from his purpose, nor would he abate any portion of the price, which was three hundred dollars. Stevens saw that there was but one way to prevent a cruel separation between the husband and wife; and although compelled in consequence to abandon his journey, and postpone the much needed increase of his library until some future time, he purchased the "boy" himself and gave him free papers.

The Constitution of Pennsylvania, as revised in 1838, required all voters in that State to be white. Mr. Stevens was a member of the convention by which the revision was made; and after making vain efforts to prevent this race distinction, he refused to affix his signature to the completed document. He subsequently urged the rejection of the Constitution by

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the people; but without success. His attention to public affairs seriously interfered with his private concerns. Accommodations for friends, and mismanagement on the part of his associates in an extensive iron business, in which he had become interested, resulted in large pecuniary losses, rendering a resumption of his professional practice an imperative necessity. In 1842, he removed to Lancaster, where he met with greater success at the bar than ever before, and his large income enabled him, in a few years, to liquidate his debts and save his estate.

In 1848, he was elected to Congress by the Whigs of his district. In this new field he continued his outspoken opposition to slavery which was to him indeed "the sum of all villainies." He was reelected in 1850. After retiring from Congress in March, 1853, he devoted himself for the five following years to the law, and then reentered public life never again to leave it until he should lay all burdens down. He was elected to Congress, as a Republican, in 1858, and, subsequently, to each succeeding Congress until the time of his death. He became the great leader, in the House, of the Union party, and was zealously in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war for the suppression of the rebellion. In the spring of 1862, six months before President Lincoln could see the necessity of the measure, Thaddeus Stevens declared in favor of immediate emancipation. On February 25, 1868, he appeared before the United States Senate, and, in behalf of the House of Representatives, impeached Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanors. He was subsequently chosen as one of the seven managers of the impeachment trial, in which however, his rapidly failing physical powers prevented him from taking any very active part. Mr. Stevens was without family ties; in early life he was fond of athletic sports and was a bold rider. During the closing months of his career, his form was wasted by disease, and at the last he had to be

THADDEUS STEVENS.

carried to his seat in the House. He died at his temporary residence near Washington, August 12, 1868. Agreeably with his request, his remains were interred in a private burial ground; "not from any natural preference for solitude," to quote the words of his self-written epitaph, "but finding other cemeteries limited by charter rules as to race, I have chosen it that I might be enabled to illustrate in my death the principles which I have advocated through a long life,—equality of man before his Creator."





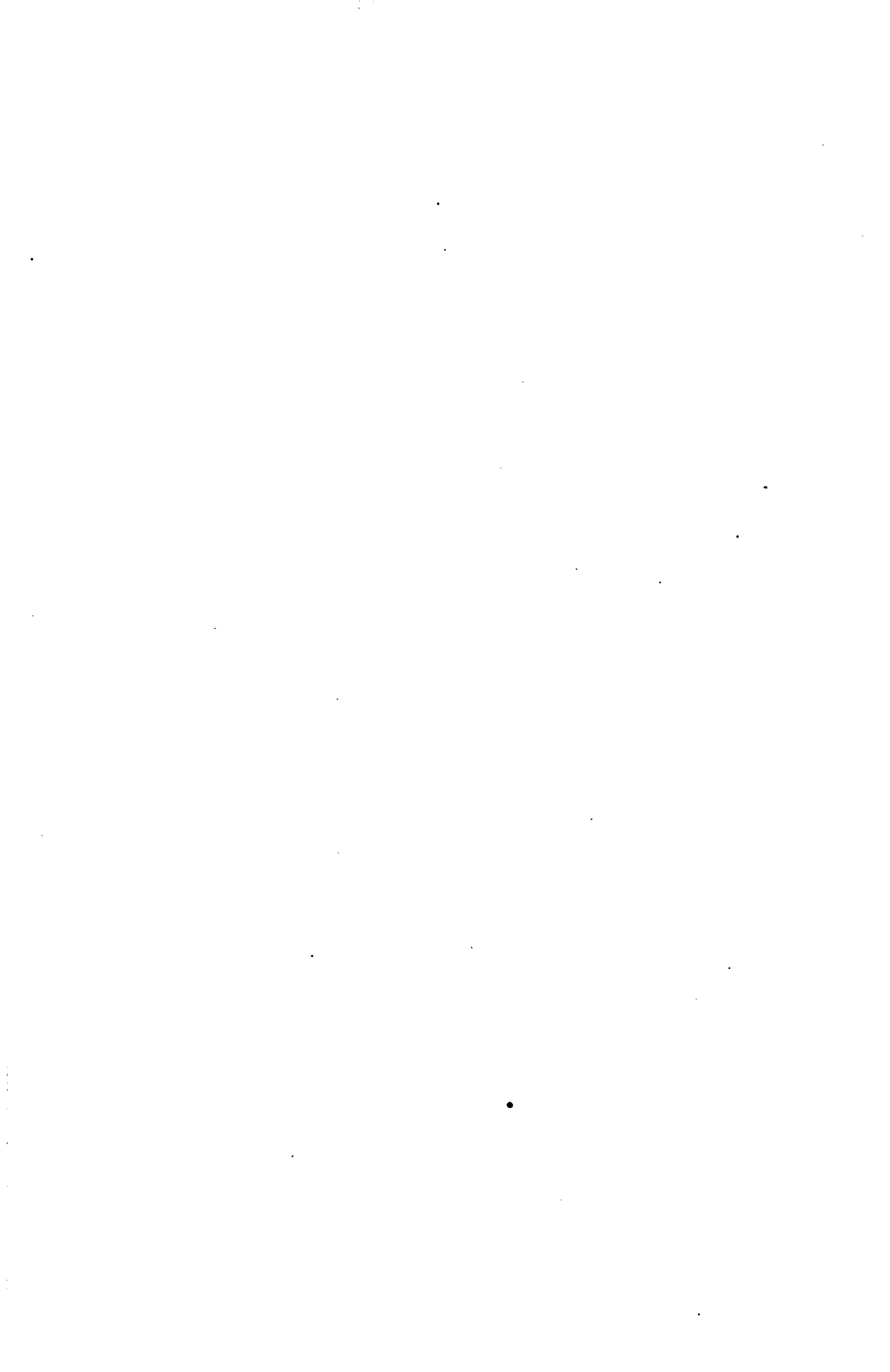
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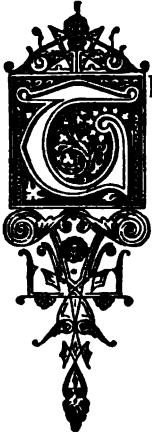
JOHN VAN
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JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

By John Wesley Jarvis. Corcoran Gallery. This portrait was painted at the time of Payne's first appearance as an actor, at the age of seventeen.



JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.



HE homeless man, who wrote of home so sweetly, was born in the city of New York, June 9, 1792. His father was a teacher, of old Cape Cod stock, his mother a beautiful Jewess. He was a precocious boy. The "home" of which he was to sing was not in the city of his birth, but was his mother's native village on Long Island, where many happy hours of his boyhood were passed. When the lad was four years of age his father removed to Boston, and this was the last "home" the future poet was ever to know. He left it at the age of thirteen, and obtained employment as a clerk in the city of New York. While living in Boston, he had been assistant editor of a little paper for children, and now he undertook to edit a more pretentious periodical, "The Thespian Mirror." Thirteen numbers appeared in the years 1805 and 1806. One of the dramatic criticisms which came from his pen was so able as to enlist the interest of editor Coleman of the "Evening Post," in behalf of the youthful writer. He induced a wealthy gentleman of New York to become responsible for Payne's college expenses, and the young editor was accordingly sent, in 1806, to Union College, at Schenectady. Here he remained two terms; again entering the editorial field as conductor of "The Pastime," a paper which met with much favor.

In 1808, he determined to adopt the theatrical profession.

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

Accordingly he quitted college and spent a year in Boston in the necessary study, also engaging in some further editorial work. He made his *début* as an actor at the Park Theatre, New York, February 24, 1809, the part selected being that of Norval, in the tragedy of "Douglas." From the very outset of his dramatic career Payne was successful. The New York public gave to the new star an enthusiastic and liberal support. Two months later he appeared in Boston, where he was received with equal favor. After returning to New York he made a tour of the Southern cities, where he was everywhere greeted with full houses and unstinted applause, and for the next two years he continued to be a prime favorite among the theatre goers of the United States.

In January, 1813, he sailed for England. War was raging at the time between the United States and the mother country, and Payne suffered the mortification of an arrest and imprisonment upon his arrival in Liverpool. After his release he proceeded to London, where he at length obtained an engagement, making his first appearance at Drury Lane, June 14, 1813. Having made a brilliant success in London, he next visited the provinces, and subsequently delighted large audiences in the principal Irish cities. He was in receipt of a considerable income, but he never saved much; his money came with ease and was expended with liberality. In 1815, he visited Paris, and spent some time amid its gayeties. While there he made a translation of a French drama, called "The Maid and the Magpie," which he disposed of afterward to a London publisher for one hundred and fifty pounds.

Payne's chief charm as an actor, undoubtedly, lay in his extreme youth, which was now fast passing away. Fortunately, just as his popularity as an actor began to wane, his talents as a playwright opened for him another avenue to fame. Most of his dramas were adaptations from the French, and though well received in their day, have long since been

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

forgotten. One play, however, and that among his earliest productions, still retains its place on the stage. It is "Brutus; or, The Fall of Tarquin," first performed December 3, 1818, at Drury Lane, London, with the famous Edmund Kean in the title role. It had a run of seventy-four nights. After a time he undertook the management of the Sadler's Wells Theatre. In this venture he was very unfortunate, finding himself at the close of one season, utterly bankrupt and imprisoned by his creditors. "Thérèse; or, The Orphan of Geneva," was written while in prison, Payne obtaining permission to absent himself from his confinement long enough to direct the rehearsals, and witness the first performance at Drury Lane, February 2, 1821. The profits from this piece put him on his feet again; and shortly afterward we find him living comfortably, and even luxuriously in Paris, once more in receipt of a generous income from the sale of the plays which he continued to produce. He likewise enjoyed at this time, the intimate friendship and society of his distinguished fellow countryman, Washington Irving.

Early in 1823, he sold to Charles Kemble, of the Covent Garden Theatre, London, a play called "Clari, the Maid of Milan." It was, in one respect, the most famous of all his works, for through it was first given to the world that inimitable song, sung wherever the English tongue is spoken : —

"Home, home, sweet, sweet home!
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home!"

This song was written by a stranger in a strange land, in a land into whose language the word "home" cannot be translated. The melody was supplied by Bishop, Payne being entirely ignorant of music. The play was very successful; and over a hundred thousand copies of the song were sold within a year, with no profit, however, to its author. In some of his subsequent dramas he received

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

valuable aid from Irving's pen, although the latter declined to have his name appear as a joint author. At length, having been absent from his native land for nearly twenty years, he sailed for New York in the summer of 1832.

Payne, though homeless, was not a friendless man. He received a cordial welcome from his relatives and from the public. The receipts at a complimentary benefit in New York were seven thousand dollars. On this occasion Edwin Forrest appeared as Brutus, already a favorite part with that great tragedian. Payne now for some time made his residence with his brother in New York, projecting several literary enterprises which came to nothing. On the 18th of March, 1835, at the close of a Southern tour, he was tendered a complimentary benefit in the city of New Orleans, after which he severed his connection with the drama forever. While returning to the North he met with a singular adventure. He was visiting John Ross, the Cherokee chief, in Tennessee, and while there he was suspected of plotting with that dignitary to prevent the removal of the Cherokee tribe from Georgia. The poet and his warrior friend were captured by a gang of Georgians, carried away, and held prisoners for some time. While on the march, one of the captors began to sing "Home, Sweet Home." Payne good-naturedly informed his guard that he was the author of the song; but his statement was received with derision.

Payne now spent several years in Washington and New York, his time being employed mainly in writing magazine articles, and such like literary work. Upon the accession of President Tyler, he made application for a foreign consulship. His friend, Daniel Webster, the Secretary of State, interested himself in his behalf, and, in 1842, Payne was appointed United States Consul at Tunis. Early in the following year he sailed for Europe. Then he journeyed leisurely, making long stops in the principal cities, in each of which he had a large number of friends by whom he

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

was warmly welcomed, and reached his post in Africa in May. He made an efficient consular official; but, unfortunately, just as he had got the affairs of his office into good working order, and was beginning to collect material for a history of Tunis, the government at Washington passed from the hands of Mr. Tyler into those of Mr. Polk. A political friend of the latter had to be provided for, and Payne was removed. After a year's pleasant wandering through Europe, he again reached the United States in July, 1847, and took up his residence in New York.

In 1849, he made unsuccessful application to President Taylor for a restoration to his office; but after the General's death in the following year, he obtained the desired favor from President Fillmore. After making extensive preparations for a long sojourn abroad, he left New York for the last time in May, 1851. His first business in Tunis was to repair the consular residence, in doing which he became involved in debt, although assisted to some extent by the Bey. At the same time his health suddenly gave way, and he was unable to attend to any further business. His sickness was long and painful; but still, as ever, though without a home, he was surrounded by kind friends. Tenderly cared for by the British Consul, four devoted Sisters of Charity, and a faithful Moorish domestic, he lingered for many months, and died April 9, 1852. He was buried in the Protestant cemetery in Tunis. Thirty-one years afterward his remains were removed to America by the munificence of his admirer in youth, and friend in manhood, W. W. Corcoran of Washington, and after imposing ceremonies in New York were taken to the beautiful Oak Hill cemetery in Georgetown, District of Columbia, and there finally interred. The exile and wanderer was at last, and forever, at Home!



NEW YORK
JUN 15
1887



NOVEN
ALAN
VARD

SAM HOUSTON.

From life, by Charles D. Fredericks, of New York, in 1857.

SAM HOUSTON.



HE hero of San Jacinto was born March 2, 1793, near Lexington, Virginia. From his earliest childhood he evinced a roving disposition. The fields and forests were his delight, and it was with difficulty, at first, that he could be induced to attend school at all. He lost his father when about thirteen, and soon afterward his mother and her nine children pushed their way westward to the banks of the Tennessee, where a better opening seemed to present itself. In the meantime Sam had fallen upon some translations from classic writers, and a strong desire was awakened to read them in the original. He now attended school more willingly, and soon expressed his desire to learn Latin; but this proposition met with no favor from his practical elder brothers, who considered it very presumptuous in a poor country boy to wish to waste his time over the dead languages which could be of no possible service to him in his struggle for a living. So, to break him of his folly, he was taken from school and set to work, at first with a blacksmith, and then, as a clerk in a country store. One fine morning he was missing. By diligent inquiry his brothers found that he had crossed the river into the territory of the Cherokees. So cordial was his reception among this people that he determined to take up his residence with them, and adopt their habits of life, and upon refusing to return to civilization with his brother, he said that he preferred measur-

SAM HOUSTON.

ing the tracks of the deer to measuring tape. The Indians became greatly attached to him, and he was regularly adopted by one of the principal old men of the tribe. In this manner the future statesman passed several years of his life, occasionally visiting his relatives, but always glad to return to his semi-savage friends. Sam Houston was the constant friend of the Red Man, and by him was ever held in high esteem. Of all the treaties which he was in after years called upon to make with the natives of the soil, not one was ever broken by the Indians. About the year 1810, he returned to Tennessee and opened a school. That such a schoolmaster should demand and receive a larger compensation than any of his predecessors does not speak very highly for the state of education in East Tennessee at that period. At all events he earned enough money by teaching to pay the debts he had contracted during his residence among the Cherokees.

In 1813, Houston enlisted in the United States Army, and in a short time was made sergeant and ensign, and became one of the best drill officers in the service. Having mastered the theory of warfare, he soon had an opportunity to display his courage on the field, and also his abilities as a commander. With his regiment he joined the army under General Jackson which was sent against the hostile Creeks. A large portion of the tribe had gathered at Tohopeka, or Horse-shoe Bend, on the Tallapoosa in Alabama, where, by the aid of some whites from Pensacola, they established a very strongly fortified camp. Thither they carried their women and children, with an abundance of food, and prepared for a desperate resistance. Jackson began the assault upon this position, March 27, 1814. For a long time the efforts of the white men were in vain, and loud cries of derisive laughter came from the savage stronghold. Jackson called for a storming party. Not a single commissioned officer would volunteer to take the lead in the dangerous

SAM HOUSTON.

assault. Houston, already severely wounded, stepped fearlessly forward, and was assigned to the command. A terrible conflict ensued, in which the Indians were finally defeated with great slaughter, and the power and spirit of the Creek nation was broken forever. Houston received two musket balls in the shoulder, and was carried from the field, as it was supposed, to die. It was some two months before he had sufficiently recovered to be moved to his mother's home. From thence he was removed to Knoxville, where his case was considered so utterly hopeless that it was only with great difficulty that a physician could be induced to attempt anything for him. He slowly regained his strength, but from the honorable wounds received at Tohopeka he never entirely recovered; they still remained unhealed at his death, forty-nine years afterward. After the peace he continued to discharge the duties of an army officer. He was now a lieutenant, and acted for some time as a sub-agent among the Cherokee Indians.

In May, 1818, he resigned his commission in the army, and took up the study of the law at Nashville. Eighteen months' reading was usually required in those parts before admission to the bar; but Houston, by extraordinary diligence, fitted himself in about six months, received his license, and began practice at Lebanon, Tenn. In 1819, he was elected district attorney, and removed to Nashville. He was made major-general in the Tennessee militia in 1821. Finding but little profit in the office of district attorney, he resigned it in 1822, but continued his law business with brilliant success. In 1823 he entered Congress, and having served two terms in the House of Representatives, he was, in 1827, elected Governor of Tennessee. His administration was very popular; but, now at the height of his success in life, an unfortunate occurrence took place which not only brought about his sudden downfall, both socially and politically, but which once more sent him into a self-imposed exile

SAM HOUSTON.

among uncivilized men. In January, 1829, he was married to a lady of good standing; but within three months a separation took place, which remains to this day unexplained. The affair provoked such wide-spread and hostile criticism that he resigned his high office, renounced the comforts of home, and left the State.

He took refuge in Arkansas, and once more became a member of the Cherokee tribe, his adopted father, Oolooteka, receiving him with every possible mark of affection. He found the tribe deceived and plundered by the government agents who had been sent among them. Filled with indignation at the wrongs of his foster-brethren, he undertook a mission to Washington, in 1832, to plead the cause of the Indians against their defrauders. So well did he present the case before Congress, that many of the guilty agents and sub-agents were removed from their positions. Of course, this stirred up great enmity against him on the part of those who were making money out of the necessities of the Red Men. One Stansberry, a member of Congress from Ohio, preferred counter charges of fraud and scheming against Houston. Not satisfied with this malicious act, he even ventured to accuse President Jackson with being an accomplice. This was more than Houston could bear with equanimity, and, on meeting Stansberry on the street, he gave him a severe caning. For this assault upon one of its members, Houston was brought before the bar of the House and reprimanded. He was also indicted by the grand jury of the District, and fined five hundred dollars. No attempt was ever made to collect the fine, and it was finally remitted by President Jackson.

In December, 1832, Sam Houston went to Texas, partly on business connected with his tribe, and partly, no doubt, under the influence of a newly awakened ambition. He was solicited by the American settlers, who had become very numerous, and, indeed, held control of the country, to unite

SAM HOUSTON.

with them in the formation of a new State government. He was well pleased with the province, and determined to return thither the following year, which he did accordingly. He became a citizen of Texas, and was a member of the convention which met April 1, 1833, to form a State Constitution. The Mexican government refused to ratify this new Constitution, and, in 1835, the Texans instituted a provisional government with Houston as commander-in-chief of the forces. Preparations were made to resist the attempt of the Mexicans to subdue the rebellion. Several months of fighting ensued, during which Houston displayed military talent of a high order, as well as great personal bravery. On March 2, 1836, the Texans declared their independence, and that independence was finally established by the memorable battle of San Jacinto, fought April 21, 1836. Houston, who was again severely wounded, totally routed the Mexicans, and Santa Anna, the greatest general that Mexico has produced, fell into his hands, a prisoner. Many years afterward, during the rebellion, when no one could travel in the South without a provost marshal's pass, Houston was stopped in the city which bears his own name, and his papers demanded. The old man proudly drew himself up, and said to the sentry, "Go to San Jacinto, and learn my right to travel in Texas." He was allowed to proceed without further question.

Sam Houston was elected first President of the Republic of Texas by a very large majority, in September, 1836, although his name was mentioned in connection with the candidacy only twelve days before the election. He administered the government ably, and secured for his little republic the recognition of the United States. His term of office expired in December, 1838, and the Constitution did not permit an immediate reelection; but he continued to exert an important influence in public affairs as a member of the Texan Congress. May 9, 1840, he was married to a young Alabama lady by the name of Lea. At this time, as for

SAM HOUSTON.

X many years previously, he was addicted to the intemperate use of spirits, so that his Indian friends sometimes called him, familiarly, "Big Drunk;" but through the long continued efforts of his estimable wife, Houston at length became entirely reformed and united with the Baptist Church. In December, 1841, he was again inaugurated President of Texas, for a term of three years. During his second administration difficulties arose with Mexico, which had never acknowledged the independence of Texas, and the Congress voted to clothe him with the powers of a Dictator, but he promptly interposed his veto. He was succeeded, in 1844, by Anson Jones, the last President of Texas. That Republic was annexed to the United States in March, 1845, and admitted as one of the States of the Union in the following December. Sam Houston was again an American citizen. Y

Early in 1846, Houston took his seat as one of the United States Senators from the new State. He took the oath to support the Constitution, and that oath he never abjured, though Texas afterward disgraced itself by rebellion against the National government. His course in the Senate, extending over a period of thirteen years, and closing in March, 1859, was conservative. He would have avoided, if possible, the Mexican War, and he opposed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. He soon began to be spoken of as a candidate for the presidency, and it is no secret that the White House was the goal of his ambition. He was formally nominated by the Legislature of his own State; but, on account of his intense hatred for the doctrine of secession, he was regarded quite coldly by the majority of Southern politicians, and so failed to receive the Democratic nomination at Baltimore in 1852. Having become identified with the American or "Know-Nothing Party," he canvassed his State for the governorship, in 1857. In his speeches during the campaign he foretold the downfall of slavery in case of a disruption of the Union, although he was not opposed to that institution.

SAM HOUSTON.

He was defeated; but, in 1859, when the issue was Union or secession, he was elected governor on the Union ticket.

Unfortunately, he found himself opposed to the majority in the Legislature which favored disunion. He was, of course, unfavorable to the election of Mr. Lincoln; but he argued manfully that his election would form no good ground for an insurrection on the part of the South. But, in spite of all his efforts, he could not prevent the passage of the secession ordinance in February, 1861. A month later he found the doors of the gubernatorial office closed against him; he had been deposed by the disloyal Legislature on account of his protests against treason. The few remaining years of his life were spent in seclusion, and even in poverty. This great man, who had played so prominent a part in the history of his country, who, though true to the Union, was forced by his age and infirmities to submit to the rebel rule, died July 26, 1863, at Huntsville, Texas.





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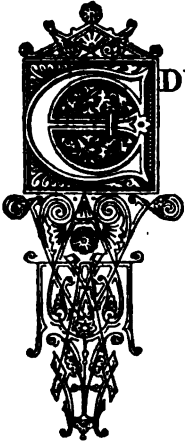
JOHN W. WILSON
JUNIOR
YR. 1834

EDWARD EVERETT.

The Faneuil Hall portrait, the property of the City of Boston.

Painted by Moses Wight [1827-].

EDWARD EVERETT.



EDWARD EVERETT was born in Dorchester, Mass., within the present limits of the city of Boston, April 11, 1794. He was the son of Rev. Oliver Everett, sometime pastor of the New South Church in Boston; but subsequently a judge. After the death of the Rev. Mr. Everett, in 1802, his widow, with a numerous family, removed to Boston, where, in 1804, young Edward entered the grammar school, and, at the end of his course, received the Franklin Medal. He began his preparation for college in a school taught by Ezekiel Webster. This school was taught for a few days by the illustrious brother of the master, Daniel Webster. Little did either then suppose that the scholar would one day, as Governor, sign the commission of the teacher as Senator. He continued his preparatory course at the Latin School, again receiving the Franklin medal, and completed it at the Phillips Exeter Academy. He entered Harvard College in 1807, and after the usual four years' course, he graduated, and began the study of divinity under President Kirkland. In 1813, he was called to the pastorate of the Brattle Street Church, in Boston, and was ordained on the 9th of February in the following year.

The youthful preacher's pastorate was but a brief one, yet he won a brilliant reputation for his eloquence and erudition. In 1815, having been appointed professor of

EDWARD EVERETT.

Greek literature at Harvard, he went to Europe to prepare himself for his duties. After a careful course of study at the University of Göttingen, he visited various parts of Europe and the East, becoming personally acquainted with the leading literary and scientific men of England, France, and Germany, and making himself familiar with the classic regions of Italy and Greece. He remained abroad until 1819, when he returned to America, having become one of the most accomplished Hellenists of his time. He at once assumed his position at Cambridge, and shortly afterward accepted the editorship of the "North American Review," which he conducted with great ability for four years. He was married, in 1822, to Charlotte Gray Brooks, who died in 1859.

In 1824, Mr. Everett, who was an admirer of John Quincy Adams, and a supporter of his election to the presidency, accepted an independent nomination for Congress, which came to him wholly unsought, and the voters of the district honored themselves by electing him by a handsome majority. It was about this time that his fame as an orator became firmly established, and it increased from year to year, until, after the death of Webster, he was without a rival. He was not a mere politician, but a statesman of the highest order. He took his seat in Congress in 1825, and retained it, through continued reelections for ten years, acting of course, during the latter part of his service with the Whig opposition. During these years he devoted himself with untiring energy to the interests of his constituents; as a member of the committee for foreign affairs, he gained that complete mastery of questions concerning our relations with other countries which rendered his subsequent diplomatic career so successful. He also defended emphatically the cause of the Cherokee Indians against the oppressions of the State of Georgia.

In 1835, Mr. Everett was elected Governor of Massa-

EDWARD EVERETT.

chusetts. He was three times reelected, and, in 1839, only failed of an election by a single vote in a poll of one hundred and two thousand. Many measures of importance owe their origin to the wisdom and practical suggestions of Governor Everett, prominent among them the establishment of the State Board of Education, with Horace Mann as Secretary, which took place during his second term. In 1840, he went to Europe with his family, and spent the following winter in Italy. While he was abroad, the Whig party came into power with President Harrison, and Mr. Everett was soon afterward accredited to the Court of St. James. So great was the esteem in which he was held by his friend Mr. Webster, then Secretary of State, that he was left largely to exercise his own judgment in conducting the delicate negotiations with the English government during the times of excitement consequent upon the Northeastern boundary disputes, and the troubles arising out of the rebellion in Canada. Although there was in England, at that time, quite a feeling against the United States, yet Mr. Everett's personal relations with the government and people were very pleasant. He received honorary degrees from Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin.

With the change in the administration, in 1845, he retired from his diplomatic office and returned to America, to accept, in 1846, the presidency of Harvard College. He held this office for three years, after which several years were passed in retirement. During this time he took a deep interest in the proposal to establish a public library for the city of Boston. Donations of books and money had, from time to time, been received by the city for that purpose, and, in 1850, Mr. Everett formally presented his entire collection of State papers, together with many other works, in all more than a thousand volumes, of which he had made the offer sometime previously. In 1852, the first board of trustees for the library was chosen, and Mr. Everett became its

EDWARD EVERETT.

president. This position he held until his death, always evincing the liveliest interest in the noble institution which he did so much to call into being. He also devoted a considerable portion of his time to the editing and publication of the works of Daniel Webster, as well as of his own orations and speeches. After Mr. Webster's death, in 1852, Edward Everett was appointed Secretary of State, and held the position until the following March, when he was succeeded by Mr. Marcy, the head of President Pierce's Cabinet. The most important matter which came within his province, during his short term of office as Secretary of State, was the proposed "tripartite treaty" between England, France, and the United States, by which the contracting powers were to abstain from the occupation of the Island of Cuba. Mr. Everett, in declining to accede to the treaty in behalf of his government, took the ground that European nations, except Spain, were not concerned in Cuban affairs, and that the question was purely an American one.

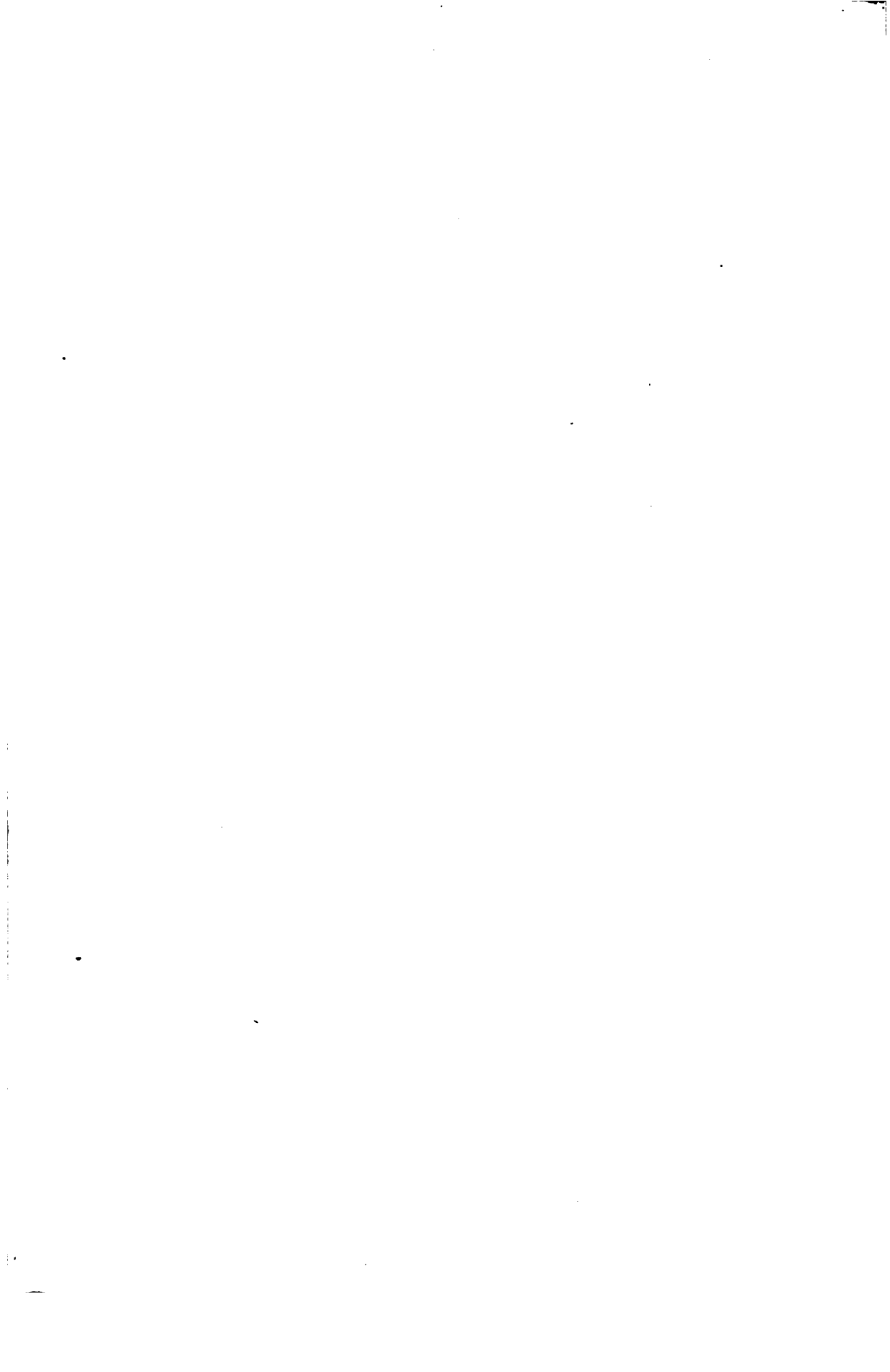
In 1853 Mr. Everett was elected United States Senator. He accepted the office with misgivings on account of the state of his health, and was obliged to resign in the following year. While in the Senate he opposed firmly, but without violence, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, and consequent repeal of the Missouri Compromise. The agitation in behalf of the spread of the institution of slavery, he termed "Pandora's box from which all our ills have flowed." His life, from 1856 to 1860, was devoted to the magnificent work of preserving Mount Vernon for the nation. Within that time, he raised, by means of his lectures in all parts of the Union, and also by contributions from his pen, the sum of nearly a hundred thousand dollars for that object. In all these speeches and essays there breathed a living spirit of patriotism and of love for the Union. By this time the greater portion of the Whigs of the North had joined the Republican party. Some among them, however, were

EDWARD EVERETT.

disposed once more to try to compromise with the South, by electing a president whose views on slavery should be even more conservative than those of Mr. Lincoln, knowing also that the election of the Republican candidate would, in all probability, be seized upon by the South as a pretext for rebellion. They consequently nominated for president, Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, and with him for vice-president, Mr. Everett. In the election which made Mr. Lincoln president, the Bell-*Everett* ticket received thirty-nine votes, all of them from slave States.

During the course of the slaveholders' rebellion Edward Everett's impassioned eloquence was heard in no uncertain tones in behalf of his beloved country. One of his greatest efforts was his speech at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. In November, 1864, his name headed the list of Republican electors chosen by Massachusetts to cast the vote of the State for Mr. Lincoln's reelection. This was the last public office which he filled. On the 9th of January, 1865, he addressed a public gathering at Faneuil Hall, Boston, in aid of the suffering people of Savannah, Ga. On coming from the heated hall, he contracted a violent cold which resulted in his death only six days later, January 15th. His funeral which was attended by the city and State governments, and by the militia of the Commonwealth, was the most imposing demonstration of the kind seen in Boston since that of Daniel Webster, thirteen years previously. The transcendent merits of Edward Everett, as a statesman, scholar, and philanthropist, are acknowledged throughout the civilized world.







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CORNELIUS VANDERBILT.

From life, by Sarony. This portrait was made about five years previous to the death of the Commodore.

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT.



HIS wonderful amasser of money, probably the richest man the world ever saw whose wealth was entirely the result of his own industry and good management, was born on Staten Island, N. Y., May 27, 1794. From his earliest years, which were passed on his father's farm, his mind was possessed with the one idea of his life, to the exclusion of all others. Wealth was his aim, and no toil was too great for its acquirement. He had little opportunity or inclination for study, but in all the practical affairs of life he was a remarkably apt scholar. His energy and business ability were inherited from his mother, a woman of marked capability, who, on one occasion at least, saved her husband from bankruptcy. He became an adept in all kinds of farm labor, especially in the management of horses, for which he ever retained great fondness. When quite young he learned to sail the boat in which his father carried farm produce to the city, and his first ambition was to own a boat himself. At the age of sixteen, he had, by his own hard work supplemented by that of his companions, whom he shrewdly induced to assist him, laid by a hundred dollars, which his parents allowed him to invest in a sail-boat.

Thus equipped he began his career which was prosperous from first to last. For about three years his mother claimed the major portion of his earnings, which, like the dutiful son that he was, he uncomplainingly handed over to her, and

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT.

which amounted in that time to some three thousand dollars. He was engaged in ferrying passengers and freight between Staten Island and New York City. He toiled night and day, in storm and sunshine. His habits were correct, he was prompt to the dot in fulfilling all his engagements, and at eighteen he was the owner of two boats, and the commander of a third. At the close of his nineteenth year he was his own master, and married.

In 1814, he contracted to keep the forts in New York harbor supplied with provisions, and by means of the extra profits thus realized, he was enabled to build his first vessel. With this he engaged in the coasting trade with Southern ports. At twenty-four he was the owner of three vessels, beside nine thousand dollars in money, and was in receipt of an assured income of about three thousand a year; but this income he now voluntarily relinquished, and entered the employ of Thomas Gibbons, on a salary of only one thousand dollars, assuming the command of a steamer running between New York and New Brunswick, N. J. His object in making this change was that he might become thoroughly familiar with steam navigation, which, with his characteristic foresight, he perceived was to be far more profitable than the use of sailing vessels. He continued in this subordinate position about twelve years. During a part of this time his wife managed a hotel at New Brunswick. In 1827, he leased a ferry between New York and Elizabethport. He put on new boats and this venture, like all his others, proved a complete success.

In 1829, Mr. Vanderbilt began to build steamboats on his own account. His first steamer was the *Caroline*, captured by the Canadians in 1837, set on fire, and allowed to drift over the falls of Niagara. This was, however, long after he had ceased to own her; of all the thirty-eight steamers of which he was at different times the proprietor not one was lost by any disaster while in his service. It was his constant

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT.

study to accommodate the public, regarding that as the surest road to success. Year by year his fleet of steamboats on the Hudson, and on Long Island Sound, increased in numbers, and year by year, his wealth continued to increase. Young Captain Vanderbilt, at twenty, had formed a resolution to retire with twenty thousand dollars when he became forty. "Commodore" Vanderbilt, at forty, was worth half a million but had no thoughts of retiring. His passion for money getting was more intense than ever.

The discovery of gold in California turned an enormous stream of travel in that direction. Mr. Vanderbilt was quick to turn this circumstance to profit, and, in 1851, he established a line of steamers by the Nicaragua route. After reaping a rich harvest, he sold out the line in 1853. In that year, being then nearly sixty years of age, he indulged in a grand pleasure trip to Europe. Accompanied by his family, he travelled in his own steamer, *North Star*, which had been magnificently fitted up for the occasion. He visited all the principal Atlantic and Mediterranean ports, and was everywhere received with the deference due to his vast wealth. After his return to America, he again engaged in the California trade, and also established a line of steamers between New York and Havre, taking advantage of the Crimean War to wrest a large amount of the Atlantic carrying trade out of English hands. By carrying the United States mails free of expense to the government, he ruined his rivals of the Collins line who were largely dependent upon postal subsidies. It is said that during the last ten or eleven years of his connection with ocean and coast navigation he amassed ten millions of dollars.

The Civil War put an end to American commerce, and Mr. Vanderbilt transferred his vast pecuniary interests from the sea to the land. He was already largely interested in railroads, and now began to devote his attention to them exclusively. One fine vessel, bearing his own name, and

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT.

valued at a million, he presented, fully equipped, to the government for war purposes, and in recognition of this patriotic act he was rewarded by Congress, at the close of the Rebellion, with a gold medal. His extensive operations in railroad stocks and management began about 1858, when he acquired a controlling interest in the New York and Harlem, and, subsequently, in the Hudson River railroads. He became president in 1863, and vastly increased the efficiency of both roads, by building new depots, laying additional tracks, and in every way striving to meet the demands of the public. In doing this he was obliged to contend against the schemes of rival capitalists who controlled the State Legislature and the City Government; but he proved himself more than a match for the shrewdest of them, sometimes adding millions to his hoard at a single stroke. In 1867, he obtained the control of the New York Central Railroad, which was, in 1869, consolidated with the Hudson River Road, and again he expended large amounts of money in improvements, including the splendid Grand Central Depot in New York City.

Being personally averse to any kind of display, Mr. Vanderbilt's household arrangements were conducted upon a very economical basis until after his second marriage, in 1869, at the age of seventy-five. He was somewhat fond of card playing; but his chief indulgence was fine horses. He expended as much care on his stable as on his own house. For politics he had not the slightest inclination, and it is said that he never voted above two or three times in his life. He always remained illiterate, and, until comparatively late in life, he was not given to charity; but shortly before his death he endowed the Vanderbilt University, at Nashville, Tenn., with nearly a million dollars. In reply to a questioner who once sought to obtain from him the secret of his marvellous success, he said, "I never tell what I am going to do until I have done it." Mr. Vanderbilt died at his city

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT.

residence, after a protracted illness, January 4, 1877. His property was estimated to be worth one hundred millions, and all this wealth, with the exception of fifteen millions, was left to his oldest son, William H. Vanderbilt, who had long been his father's chief assistant, and in whose hands the enormous inheritance was yet more largely increased.





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WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

From life, by Sarony, made in 1872.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.



HE poet Bryant was born at Cummington, in the sparsely settled western portion of Massachusetts, November 3, 1794. His father, a physician, was a man of cultivated tastes, in whose well selected library were to be found many of the choicest works of the great English versifiers. For the boy William these writers possessed a peculiar charm, and as early as his eighth year he began to imitate them. His father quickly recognized his ability, and gave him every encouragement in his power. In the year 1808, when he was only thirteen years of age, he published, anonymously, at Boston, a poem called "The Embargo," a scathing denunciation of President Jefferson and the principles of his party. It met with such favor, that a second edition, from which the author's name was not withheld, was printed, although the poet, in his more mature years, was not accustomed to look with much pride upon this youthful effusion.

At the age of fourteen he was studying Latin with an uncle at Brookfield, and a year later Greek with a clergyman at Plainfield. In 1810, he entered the sophomore class at Williams College, but remained there only seven months, when, owing to the pecuniary embarrassment of his father, he was removed, and his collegiate course was never completed. After about a year's study at home, during which time he began his famous poem on death, "Thanatopsis," he decided to read law, thus departing from the traditions

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

of his ancestors, who for many generations had been physicians. The judge with whom he studied seems not to have had the same poetic feelings as did his pupil, for we find that he advised Bryant not to "spoil his style by reading Wordsworth." His studies were completed at Bridgewater, and, in 1815, he was admitted to the bar.

His first office was opened at Plainfield, but so little encouragement did he receive there, that, in 1816, he removed to a more extensive field at Great Barrington, where he remained for nine years, practising his profession and writing poetry. His "*Thanatopsis*" was published, in 1817, in one of the early numbers of the "*North American Review*." He gained a fair reputation as a lawyer, was appointed justice of the peace, and, in 1820, was chosen town-clerk, which office he held as long as he continued to reside in Great Barrington. Here it was that he met Miss Frances Fairchild, to whom he addressed the poem,

"Oh fairest of the rural maids,"

and to whom he was married in January, 1821. He was already recognized as a poet of extraordinary merit. He was never entirely satisfied with the profession of a lawyer, and gradually grew to regard it with aversion, becoming finally so thoroughly disgusted with its chicanery that, in 1825, he gave it up, thenceforth to devote his life to literature, and, in a mild way, to politics. He now removed to New York, which remained for more than fifty years his home. With some misgivings as to the advisability of his change of profession, he at first undertook the editorship of a magazine, known as the "*New York Review*," which soon went out of existence; but he rapidly formed the acquaintance of a large circle of literary and influential gentlemen, and the struggling period, supposed to be an indispensable part of the career of every author, was with Bryant only a brief one.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

In 1826, he became connected with the "New York Evening Post" as its associate editor; shortly afterward he acquired an interest in that journal, and, in 1829, became its editor-in-chief, and this position he held during the fifty-two remaining years of his life. He had been admitted to the New York bar; but never had occasion to resume his former profession, nor did he ever hold public office or engage in any other business enterprise than the conduct of his newspaper. Though he had no taste for political discussion, he could not, of course, avoid being drawn into it. He had now ceased to be a Federalist, and gave his support to the financial policy of the democratic party, being always an earnest advocate of free trade, and an enemy to the United States Bank; but his opposition to slavery prevented him from being fully in accord with that party, and eventually it led to a severance of his connection with it. In 1832, he published a collection of his poems, and the book was reprinted in England.

A visit to the quaint Old-World city of Quebec, in 1833, led him to undertake a journey to Europe in the following year, accompanied by his family. Some twenty months were passed in France, Germany, and Italy, and his sojourn abroad would have been extended still further, had not the illness of the assistant editor of the "Post" necessitated a return to business in March, 1836. The agitation of the slavery question was now becoming general, and Bryant took a firm stand in favor of liberty and free speech. He continued to support the successive democratic candidates for the presidency; but all the while made vigorous protests against all measures looking toward the perpetuation and extension of slavery. Notwithstanding this he was very kindly received by the hospitable people of the South during a visit made to their section in the spring of 1843. Another volume of poems appeared in 1842.

In 1845, Mr. Bryant again crossed the Atlantic, and for

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

a time enjoyed the society of kindred spirits in the mother country. Upon returning he found his own country on the eve of a war with Mexico. One of the results of that war was the disruption of the democratic party. That portion of the party who were opposed to the extension of slavery into the territory acquired from Mexico, received at first the whimsical appellation of "barn-burners," and afterward were known as "free-soilers." With this wing of the party Mr. Bryant was in sympathy, and the "Post" supported its presidential candidate, Mr. Van Buren, who was, however, defeated in 1848. After a trip to Florida and Cuba in 1849, Mr. Bryant made his third journey to Europe, and in the following year published an account of his wanderings under the title of "Letters of a Traveller." Though fond of visiting foreign lands, he ever returned with an increased love for his own America, and this love of his native country finds appropriate expression in his poetry. For the natural scenery of America he had an especial fondness, and his writings abound in unsurpassed descriptions of our native landscapes.

In 1852, Mr. Bryant once more, but now for the last time, supported the regular democratic nominee for President, Mr. Pierce. A few days after the election, which resulted in Mr. Pierce's success, Bryant sailed a fourth time for the Old World, and continued his travels until the following June, visiting Egypt and Palestine, and gathering materials for yet another book of travel. He was always a hard worker, and it was his custom to resume his editorial duties without delay after these periods of relaxation. He now felt obliged to withdraw his support from President Pierce, on account of that gentleman's course with regard to the slavery question; and was among the foremost of the free-soil Democrats who united with a section of the Whigs in forming the present Republican party. His influence in this movement was, however, exerted through the columns of the "Post;" caucuses and conventions were abominations to him. Mr. Bryant gave

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

his support to the Republican party during the remainder of his life, but did not hesitate to attack its policy upon certain points in which he considered it to be in the wrong, as, for instance, the making of paper money a legal tender.

Mr. Bryant went to Europe again in 1857, and remained abroad for over a year, much of the time being passed in Italy for the benefit of his wife's health. Not long after his return were heard the mutterings of the coming storm which burst upon the country in 1861. Throughout the war his pen, in editorial and in verse, voiced the loyal sentiment of the nation. In 1864, his seventieth birthday was appropriately celebrated. His family relations were very happy, and his income in his later years was ample. He retained his physical and mental vigor far beyond the allotted time. When over eighty he habitually walked to his office and back, a distance of over two miles. After the death of his wife, in 1866, he made his sixth and last visit to Europe, again remaining abroad nearly a year. For the next five or six years he was engaged upon a translation of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* of Homer, in addition, of course, to his regular editorial work. Constant calls were made upon him for public addresses, to many of which he responded cheerfully. The life of this patriarch of American literature was one of almost ceaseless activity up to the last. At the age of seventy-eight he made a journey to the Bahamas, to Cuba, and to Mexico, and in the latter country, where, as everywhere, he was warmly welcomed, he addressed an enthusiastic audience of his admirers, in "clear, sonorous, and magnificent Castilian." A year later he visited the reconstructed Southern section of his own country. His final illness, which was but a brief one, was the result of a fall on the doorstep of a friend's house in New York City. He died June 12, 1878, having reached the venerable age of eighty-four years lacking five months.



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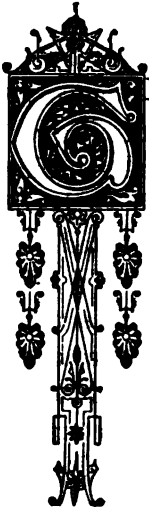


JOHN JAY
1753-1829

GEORGE PEABODY.

From an original, by Arnolt, of London, painted in
1866, and owned by the Peabody Institute,
at Peabody, Mass.

GEORGE PEABODY.



GEORGE PEABODY, whose princely benevolence has caused his name to be held in grateful remembrance by two great and kindred nations, was born in Danvers, Mass., February 18, 1795. Nothing is recorded of his early days which would distinguish him from other well-behaved and industrious children of poor parents. He learned to read, to write, and to cipher, and his education was finished, save what he was to receive from that schoolmaster of proverbial excellence, — experience. Early in life he learned the important lesson of self-reliance, being put to work in a country store at the age of eleven. His apprenticeship lasted four years, and was characterized by a strict fidelity to the interests of his employers. At fifteen, he resided for about a year with his grandfather in Thetford, Vt., after which he entered the employ of an older brother, a dry-goods merchant, at Newburyport, Mass. We are told that he had by this time become a very neat penman, and that he turned his accomplishment to account by preparing written ballots at an election, the printed ballot not having yet been introduced.

His residence in Newburyport, though brief, proved to be of great importance to him, for during that period he may be said to have laid the foundation for his future com-

GEORGE PEABODY.

mercial success. When suddenly thrown out of employment, in 1811, by the destruction of his brother's store by fire, he received credit from friends to the amount of several thousand dollars, showing a degree of confidence in his business ability and integrity which is rarely manifested toward one of his years. He now left New England, and assumed the management of a portion of the business of an uncle, at Georgetown, D. C. At the end of two years, during which time the second war with England broke out, and the young merchant patriotically joined a company of artillery, he became a partner in the firm of Riggs & Peabody, with practically the entire control of the business at the age of nineteen. Like most men who have become wealthy through their own exertions, he recognized from the outset of his career, that "a penny saved is a penny earned." His habits of life were simple, his dress always plain and unostentatious; but his manners were courteous and winning, and the affairs of the firm prospered so well under his management, that in 1815 its headquarters were transferred to Baltimore. For several years Mr. Peabody acted as a travelling salesman, making long journeys on horseback, and built up an extensive business, alike among the farmers of New York and Pennsylvania and the planters of Maryland and Virginia. By 1822, branch houses had been established in Philadelphia and New York, and, in 1827, Mr. Peabody began to make business trips to London in the interest of his firm, of which he became, about 1830, the senior partner.

After 1837 he made his permanent home in London, withdrawing from the American dry-goods firm in 1843, and establishing himself as a banker. His rapidly increasing wealth produced little change in the simplicity of his tastes. He never married, and usually resided in unpretentious chambers; but was fond of entertaining his friends at dinner, at his club. On these occasions, while providing

GEORGE PEABODY.

a bountiful and sumptuous repast for his guests, he rarely indulged in more than a single dish himself. Though dwelling in a foreign land, he ever remained a true American at heart. It was for many years his custom to celebrate annually, the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by a splendid banquet, to which he invited such of his prominent fellow-countrymen as were in London, as well as members of the British nobility. By his efforts as one of the commissioners to devise means to restore the credit of the State of Maryland, in the financial panic of 1837, he saved his adopted State from bankruptcy. This service was performed gratuitously, the only reward he would consent to receive, was the thanks of the Maryland Legislature. It was owing to the liberal advance of fifteen thousand dollars on the part of Mr. Peabody, that America was enabled to make a creditable display of her useful inventions at the time of the great exhibition of 1851, and that the American department was saved from becoming the laughing-stock of the British press.

In 1852, when Henry Grinnell furnished Kane with the *Advance* for his second expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, George Peabody provided the necessary equipment. In the same year the citizens of his native town of Danvers celebrated the centennial of their incorporation. He was not able to accept their invitation to be present; but accompanying his letter of regret was a substantial proof of his affection for his boyhood home which he had left more than forty years before. It was his check for twenty thousand dollars, for the purpose of establishing a lyceum. Thus was founded the Peabody Institute. Three years later the town of Danvers was divided, the portion in which Mr. Peabody was born becoming South Danvers, which name was changed, in 1868, to Peabody. The Institute subsequently received, at different times, from its beneficent founder a quarter of a million of dollars.

GEORGE PEABODY.

In September, 1856, Mr. Peabody visited his native country for the first time in twenty years, and remained here during the ensuing winter, modestly declining all public receptions, except one from his fellow-townsmen of Danvers, October 9, 1856, and one from the city of Baltimore, February 2, 1857. A few days after the latter reception, he endowed in that city, a second "Peabody Institute," with three hundred thousand dollars, and his subsequent gifts to Baltimore amounted to over a million.

Upon the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, the United States became a borrower to such an enormous extent, that many capitalists had grave doubts that it would ever be able to meet its obligations. Mr. Peabody's course at this time displayed not only his patriotism, and his faith in the triumph of the right, but his keen foresight as well. With the utmost confidence in the stability of his government, he invested the great bulk of his property in its bonds, and in other American securities, and this confidence was fully justified by the event, for now his tens and hundreds of thousands rapidly became millions. Increased wealth was followed by increased liberality. In 1862, he began his series of princely gifts to the poor of London. Two and a half millions, in all, were bestowed in this direction; not upon the idle and the dissolute, however, but according to his directions the money was expended in building substantial blocks of lodging-houses, where industrious working people could obtain a comfortable home at a very moderate rental. The scheme has been eminently successful, and to-day twenty thousand persons in the great metropolis dwell in decent and healthy apartments, who, but for Mr. Peabody's largess would be driven to abodes of squalor and crime. The English people were not slow to express their appreciation of the bounty of the American banker. The merchants of London caused a statue to be erected in his honor, and the corporation presented him with the freedom

GEORGE PEABODY.

of the city. The Queen, for whom Mr. Peabody had a most profound respect, offered him the Order of the Bath, or a baronetcy; but these honors, his modesty, as well as his republican principles, induced him courteously to decline. When pressed to name some token of her Majesty's regard which he would accept, he asked only for an autograph letter from her royal hand. With this request the Queen very cheerfully complied, and, in addition, presented Mr. Peabody with her miniature, framed in massive gold; both letter and portrait are now deposited in the Institute at Peabody.

In May, 1866, Mr. Peabody again came to America, and he remained here for about a year. During this visit he performed that great crowning act of benevolence, the creation of a fund of three millions of dollars to promote the cause of education in the Southern States; its benefits to be enjoyed without discrimination by both the freedmen and the poor whites. The formal thanks of Congress, with the gift of a gold medal, gave expression to the grateful feelings of his countrymen. Mr. Peabody also made large bequests to Harvard and Yale Colleges, and to other educational and scientific institutions. He caused a church to be erected in memory of his mother at her birthplace, Georgetown, Mass. This town, which had been named in his honor, in 1838, was a favorite resort of his while visiting in this country.

Mr. Peabody made his last visit to the United States in 1869. He was now feeble and worn with age, and passed a portion of the summer at White Sulphur Springs, in Virginia; but he had a strange fancy that the air of London would prolong his life, and in September he bade a final farewell to America. He survived the journey only a month, and died on the 4th of November. His charity was the outcome of sound judgment, never of mere impulse, and, according to his own statement, was the result of a victory gained over a naturally parsimonious disposition.

GEORGE PEABODY.

He preferred to select the objects of his bounty, and rarely responded to solicitations for aid. He was accorded a funeral at Westminster Abbey, after which his remains were brought to America in Her Majesty's Ship, *Monarch*, convoyed by American and French war vessels, and, after impressive services, were laid to rest in his native village.





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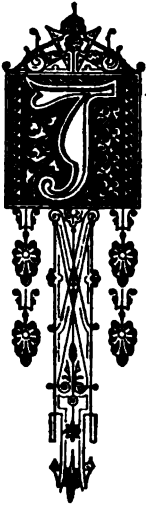


ROY WEN
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JAMES K. POLK.

One of the series of presidential portraits by Healy,
in the Corcoran Gallery, at Washington.

JAMES K. POLK.



JAMES KNOX POLK was born in Mecklenburg County, N. C., November 2, 1795. His father was a farmer, not one of the roughest of the backwoodsmen, but a man of energy and of some attainments, who, after removing westward, in 1806, into the limits of the present State of Tennessee, became one of the leading citizens of his district, and provided his eldest son, James, with a respectable education, besides instructing him personally in the art of land surveying. It was at one time proposed to fit the young man for a commercial life; but the counting-room proved to be so uncongenial to the future statesman, that he was allowed to resume his studies, continuing them under a private tutor, and at Murfreesboro Academy. After due preparation he entered the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, from which institution he graduated in 1818, the first in his class. In 1847, his *alma mater* conferred upon her most distinguished *alumnus* the doctorate of laws.

While reading law in the office of Felix Grundy, the leader of the Tennessee bar, Mr. Polk formed the acquaintance of General Jackson, which soon ripened into a life-long friendship. The former, after being admitted to the bar in 1820, opened an office at Columbia, Tenn., and entered, almost simultaneously, upon his profession as a lawyer and upon his brilliant career as a politician of the Jacksonian democratic school. The latter, with aged and trembling hands, deposited the last ballot he ever cast, in favor of the election

JAMES K. POLK.

of James K. Polk as president. Mr. Polk, by the fervor of his oratory, won for himself the title of "Napoleon of the Stump," and his partisan services were rewarded by the clerkship of the Tennessee Legislature. It is to be remarked, however, that he honestly believed in the principles he advocated, and that he never descended to trickery in politics, nor was his private character ever sullied by improprieties in conduct. He was not a democrat on foot and an aristocrat in his carriage; but was uniformly affable, even towards his political enemies. He became a member of the Legislature in 1823, and one of the beneficent measures which he introduced, and successfully championed, was a law to prohibit duelling. In 1824 he was married to Sarah Childress, a lady of high culture, who died in August, 1891, having survived her husband for more than forty-two years.

Mr. Polk was elected to Congress in 1825, and remained a member of that body for fourteen years, being its Speaker during the second congress of General Jackson's administration, and the first of Mr. Van Buren's. When he entered the House he was only thirty years of age, and yet he at once assumed the position of a party leader. His close application to his duties as a legislator was remarkable; and we are told that on only one occasion, and then on account of illness, was he absent from his seat. A worthy example, which modern Congressmen are slow to imitate. As to his strict impartiality as a presiding officer, we have the undoubted testimony of John Quincy Adams, who rarely spoke well of any man if he could help it. At the close of his first term as Speaker, he received the usual unanimous complimentary vote; but so intense had party animosity become, that when he finally retired from Congress in 1839, most of the Whig members refused to vote for the resolution of thanks.

In August, 1839, Mr. Polk was elected Governor of Tennessee, after an exciting canvass in which he himself took an important part, and was inaugurated on the 14th of

JAMES K. POLK.

October. He served only a single term, of two years, and though subsequently twice a candidate, he was on both occasions defeated by his Whig opponent. It is said that the rival candidates for the governorship were upon quite good terms with each other, sometimes travelling in company while stumping the State, and, at one time, occupying the same bed. This latter fact, is perhaps, as suggestive of limited hotel accommodations, as of a political millennium.

Mr. Polk now spent several happy years in the enjoyments of leisure, at his Tennessee home. His name ceased for a time to be prominently before the people, so that when in May, 1844, one of the earliest messages ever sent along the electric wire announced his nomination for the presidency, by the democratic convention at Baltimore, the query which sprang to thousands of lips, "Who is James K. Polk," and which became a standing campaign byword with the Whigs, was not altogether an ironical one. But this comparatively obscure Southern gentleman defeated his illustrious Southern Whig rival, Henry Clay, by sixty-five electoral votes. Mr. Polk's private character was never once assailed during the heated canvass, the purity of his life disarming scandal. He left his home in January, 1845, and made a sort of triumphant progress to the national capital, where he arrived February 13. On the way he paid a visit to his old leader, General Jackson, and received the aged hero's dying benison. Three days before his inauguration, in March, 1845, the joint resolution annexing Texas was passed, and two days after the inauguration the Mexican minister left Washington.

The administration of President Polk was one of the most important in our history, and, on the whole, was wisely conducted. It witnessed the final settlement of the boundary disputes with England, the establishment of the Smithsonian Institute, and the admission of three new States, Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin; but it was rendered chiefly memorable by the principal foreign war, and, indeed, the only one of much

JAMES K. POLK.

importance in which the United States has been engaged. Hostile demonstrations against our Southern neighbor were begun a few months after Mr. Polk's inauguration; but he formal declaration of war did not take place until May 13, 1846. The United States was rich and powerful, the Mexicans were feeble and disunited though undoubtedly brave. Victory after victory attended the American arms. Taylor on the Rio Grande, Scott in the South, Frémont and Doniphan in California and New Mexico, won for themselves brilliant laurels, and the only regret is, that they were not won in a worthier cause. The conquest of Mexico was completed by the capture of its capital city, September 14, 1847. In the following February the United States gave up a large portion of the conquered territory, and bought the remainder for fifteen millions of dollars. Just a month previously James W. Marshall had made his chance discovery of gold at Coloma which enhanced the value of the new acquisition to a fabulous extent. Mr. Polk fondly hoped that the half million of square miles which were added to our country while he was President, would be occupied by the slave-holder and his chattels; but, happily, it was otherwise ordered. He issued his proclamation of peace, July 4, 1848.

President Polk visited Boston and other Northern cities in 1847, travelling as far as Portland. He declined to be a candidate for reelection, and in the presidential contest of 1848 his party was defeated. He cheerfully took part in the inaugural ceremonies of his Whig successor, General Taylor, immediately after which he set out on his homeward journey. This he prolonged so as to include a tour of the Southern cities. While ascending the Mississippi from New Orleans, he suffered a severe attack of cholera, which so reduced his physical strength, that a relapse, shortly after his arrival at his home in Nashville, proved fatal. He died June 15, 1849, universally lamented as one who had been an upright man and a faithful magistrate.



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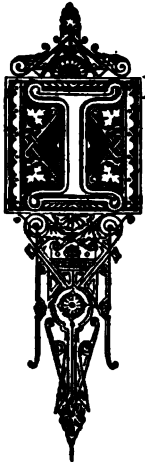


ROY WEN
CLARK
VASSALL

HORACE MANN.

From life, by Black.

HORACE MANN.



IN the State-House grounds at Boston, alongside the statue of Massachusetts' most celebrated statesman and orator, has been placed that of the subject of this sketch, to whose unselfish devotion to the cause of education the old Bay State is more deeply indebted for her efficient system of public instruction, and especially for her normal training establishments, than to any other of her citizens. During the lifetime of the educator, his renown bore no comparison to that of the brilliant statesman, and it was left for a later generation to see the results of his labors, and fully appreciate them. Horace Mann was born at Franklin, Mass., May 4, 1796. He said of himself that he did not remember the time when he began to work. In common with the other members of the family, he toiled from early youth, even beyond his strength, to obtain the necessities of life. School books he obtained by braiding straw when winter brought a partial suspension of work on the farm. In spite of these repressing circumstances, he was possessed of an ardent desire for a more complete education, but not until his twentieth year did he find time or opportunity to commence his preparations for college. These were finished in the space of six months and he entered the Sophomore Class at Brown University, Providence, in September, 1816.

After graduating in 1819, with a constitution permanently

HORACE MANN.

enfeebled by his close application to study, he began to read law, but soon accepted a position as tutor in the institution which he had just left. Two years later he entered Litchfield law school, and, in 1823, was admitted to the bar, and opened a law office in Dedham, Mass., in which town he made his home for the next ten years. He prospered in his profession, married, and became a widower. He became a member of the school committee, and after 1827 he represented the town in the Legislature. In 1833, he removed to Boston, where he was soon elected to the State Senate, and he was rechosen three years in succession. Every legislative measure for the improvement of the intellectual and moral status of the community found an earnest champion in Mr. Mann. He was one of the most prominent advocates of that renowned expedient of the early temperance reformers, the fifteen-gallon law; while he secured the passage of the bill to establish the first lunatic hospital in Massachusetts, against the nearly unanimous opposition or indifference of his colleagues. But nearest his heart lay the cause of education. His mind was constantly active with plans for improving the public schools, and extending their sphere of usefulness. Many of his schemes seemed visionary to his contemporaries, but have since been put into successful operation.

In 1836 and 1837 Mr. Mann was president of the Massachusetts Senate, and his prospects for further political advancement were bright; but, to the astonishment of those politicians who could not comprehend such self-abnegation, he was soon to assume voluntarily a much humbler and less remunerative station, but one in which he would be enabled to carry out his ideas in regard to school improvements. In 1837, the Legislature authorized the appointment of a State Board of Education, and of this board Mr. Mann became a member. A secretary was to be appointed, whose arduous duty it should be to collect information concerning the condition of the schools of the Commonwealth, and to make

HORACE MANN.

investigation and report upon the most approved and successful methods of instruction. It was proposed to Mr. Mann to accept this office, and after due deliberation he decided to do so. In order to perform his duties in the most thorough manner possible, he determined to devote his entire time to it, and so withdrew from every other public office which he held. He also relinquished his legal practice, which had been quite successful, and the source of a good income. It is said that during his fourteen years' experience in the courts, he gained four fifths of his cases, as he conscientiously declined serving any clients whose suits he considered to be unjust. He had been selected, in 1835, to edit the revised Statutes of the State.

For the next eleven years, Horace Mann faithfully and laboriously performed the task assigned to him. It was necessary for him to be almost continually travelling from one part of the State to another, delivering lectures, holding conventions of teachers, and gathering materials for his annual reports, twelve of which were published, replete with valuable information, and which exerted an influence for good in the educational field, far beyond the limits of the community for which they were originally intended. Beside working fifteen hours daily during nearly all this period, he devoted both his salary, and also a considerable portion of his private means to the cause in which he was engaged. It seems strange that such a man should meet with opposition, yet so it was. Incompetent teachers and scheming politicians nearly succeeded, at one time, in having his office abolished. It is to be regretted that he exposed himself needlessly to much hostile criticism by his own persistent opposition to the religious convictions of the vast majority of the inhabitants of the Commonwealth.

In 1838 the Board of Education had placed at their disposal, partly by private munificence and partly by legislative grant, the sum of twenty thousand dollars for the purpose

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of establishing training schools. Three of these institutions were opened under the direction of Mr. Mann, one at Lexington, in 1839, since removed to Framingham, and one in the same year at Barre, since removed to Westfield. In the following year the school at Bridgewater was opened. In addition to his other duties Mr. Mann assumed the editorship of the *Common School Journal*, of which ten volumes were issued. He was also the author of a number of books, chiefly of a controversial nature.

After his second marriage in 1843, he spent several months in Europe, not resting however, but working as diligently as ever to obtain all possible information as to the methods of instruction in vogue in England and upon the Continent. The results of this tour of observation were embodied in his seventh annual report, which was widely circulated, and justly acquired great celebrity as an educational document.

Mr. Mann's strong anti-slavery sentiments induced him, in 1848, once more to enter the arena of politics. The death of sturdy old John Quincy Adams caused a vacancy in the Congressional representation of Massachusetts, and Mr. Mann was chosen to succeed the venerable statesman and ex-president. He was afterward elected for the full term of the thirty-first Congress; but continued to discharge the duties of Secretary of the Board of Education until the close of the year 1848. He entered the National House of Representatives at a time when sectional animosity was very bitter. The South was making its desperate struggle to secure the introduction of slavery into the territories, and many scenes of disgraceful violence occurred during the excited debates; but Mr. Mann remained on good terms even with the most violent of the fire-eaters. He was deeply moved by Mr. Webster's famous change of front on the 7th of March, 1850, and predicted that the great defender would lose, in consequence of his treason, as Mr. Mann termed it, two friends at the North where he gained one at the South, a

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prediction which was quickly verified. His abhorrence of Mr. Webster's unfortunate political action was freely expressed, and made him many enemies among the Massachusetts Whigs, so that he failed to receive the nomination of that party for reelection in 1850. He then accepted the Free Soil nomination, and was once more elected.

Mr. Mann was the Free Soil candidate for governor of Massachusetts in 1852, but was defeated. In the same year he accepted the presidency of Antioch College, at Yellow Springs, Ohio, then a recently founded institution. In September, 1853, he left his native State, which still honors him as her foremost educator, and went to his new home in the West, where, for the six remaining years of his life, he devoted his energies to the management of an inadequately endowed college, guiding it through the most critical period of its affairs. He died August 2, 1859, a few weeks after the graduation of his third class.





NEW YORK
JUL 15
1885



WILLIAM
CLARK
1800

WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT.

From the portrait at Castle Howard, Yorkshire, England,
painted by George Richmond in 1850 for His Grace the Earl of
Carlisle, and here reproduced by special permission of the present
Earl.

WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT.



WILLIAM HICKLING PRESCOTT, the most eminent historian which America has yet produced, was born in the old puritan town of Salem, on the 4th of May, 1796. His ancestors for many generations had been men of wealth and influence, his grandfather being Colonel William Prescott of Bunker Hill renowned. His early years were distinguished by no meteor flashes of genius, he was just an ordinary, rich man's son, and, as a boy in Salem, not over popular with his mates. After the removal of the family to Boston, in 1808, he attended a private classical school for about three years, being sufficiently advanced in his studies, in 1811, to enter the Sophomore Class at Harvard. He was at this time fond of novel-reading, and attained some note among his companions as a story teller. While at college he began to form those habits of regularity and precision, for which in after years he became noted, though it must be remarked that his rules of conduct were at first drawn up so as to combine a minimum of study with a maximum of relaxation. While his fondness for general literature steadily increased, he was strangely deficient in the exact sciences. The propositions of Euclid were meaningless to him, though his tenacious memory enabled him to recite his tedious demonstrations without failure. He was at length excused from recitation in these branches, and allowed to devote his time to more profitable pursuits.

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In the year 1813 occurred that unfortunate accident which was the source of life-long pain and trouble. During an occasion of after-dinner hilarity among the students, young Prescott was struck in the left eye by a piece of hard bread, thrown at random by one of his mates, and the sight was destroyed. The wound was extremely painful, and for several weeks he was confined to his room; but he graduated with his class, in 1814, with high honors. He had proposed to prepare himself for the bar, and began a course of reading with his father; but the failing sight of his uninjured eye, and an attack of acute rheumatism, in 1815, compelled him to relinquish forever his legal studies, and it was several years before he was sufficiently restored to health to think seriously of a profession in life. After a long confinement in a darkened room, in a condition of almost total blindness, he found himself able to undertake a sea voyage, and sailed from Boston in September, 1815, for the Azores, arriving, after a long and painful passage, at St. Michael's, where his maternal grandfather, Thomas Hickling, was United States Consul. Much of the following winter was again passed in a darkened chamber; but he endured his forced imprisonment with patience. In April, 1816, he sailed for England where he arrived after twenty-four days of suffering. The most eminent medical men of London were unable to give him any encouragement, and pronounced his sight impaired beyond all hopes of a cure. It was a singular feature of his misfortune, that his appearance was affected in only the slightest degree, a close scrutiny being necessary in order to discern any imperfection in his eyes. In August he went to Paris, and soon afterward visited Lafayette at La Grange. Fortunately his health now began to improve, and he continued his travels with increasing pleasure. The winter was spent in Italy, and he returned to his home, in the summer of 1817, after a second visit to London and a tour through England.

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Several years yet passed away before Mr. Prescott finally decided to devote himself wholly to literary pursuits. The rejection of his maiden article by the "North American Review" was not encouraging; but having made deliberate choice of the profession of letters, he was not to be deterred from his purpose, and he began a methodical and exhaustive course of preparation for his work. After he had settled definitely upon history as his special field, he still hesitated for two or three years longer before selecting his particular subject, so that, when he at length determined upon the "History of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain," he was thirty years of age. In the meantime he had married, in May, 1820, Susan Amory, who, by a singular coincidence, was, like her husband, a grandchild of an officer who served at Bunker Hill; but the two grandfathers, Prescott and Linzee, had been enemies. Their crossed swords hung peacefully for many years upon the walls of Mr. Prescott's library, and are now in the custody of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He had also entered upon a systematic course of historical reading, and studied French and Italian. In 1824, his life-long friend and able biographer, George Ticknor, the historian of Spanish literature, induced him to acquire the Spanish language, and this, undoubtedly, led to Mr. Prescott's choice of the archives of Spain and her colonies as the store-house from which he was to draw his narratives of surpassing beauty and interest.

The "History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella" occupied Mr. Prescott's time for ten years. He soon found that his eye was unequal to the task imposed upon it, and so it became necessary to obtain the services of a reader, or secretary, several of whom he employed at different times, some of them being obliged to read to him mechanically in languages they did not comprehend. Under such circumstances, the collation of his materials, much of which consisted of antique manuscripts, scarcely legible, was a long

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and tedious process, and called for the exercise of patience and forbearance on the part of both the historian and his assistant. After reading, or rather being read to, for some three years, Mr. Prescott began to put his history upon paper in 1829. In writing he used a contrivance called a nectograph, consisting of a frame with a series of wires drawn across it, by which to guide his hand across the page. In 1836, the work was finished; but the author hesitated about publishing it, until his aged father declared to him that "the man who writes a book which he is afraid to publish is a coward." After another year of labor with the proof sheets, this masterpiece of historical writing was given to the world. The new book was received with flattering applause on both sides of the Atlantic. It has never lost its hold upon the public favor, and is, to-day, one of the books of which one can always find a recent edition in the book-stalls. Daniel Webster alluded to the author who so quickly attained an enviable celebrity, as a comet which had "suddenly blazed out in full splendor."

After the completion of his first great work, Mr. Prescott indulged for a year or two in what he termed "literary loafing" which was, in fact, a relaxation of the severe rules to which he subjected himself while engaged upon his historical compositions. In 1839 he recalled himself to duty, and began to write his "Conquest of Mexico." Taking advantage of a temporary improvement in his eyesight, he worked with even greater energy, and completed his second book in 1843. Its success was more than equal to that of his former one. He had now reached the height of his fame, and acquired a reputation which time has not dimmed. Learned societies at home and abroad hastened to confer upon him their choicest honors.

During these years of literary activity Mr. Prescott continued to reside in or near Boston, and rarely visited other cities. Debarred by his infirmity from participation in public

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affairs, he lost interest in contemporary politics; but never in the well-being of his fellow-men. He was liberal to the poor, though devoid of ostentation, and very naturally took a lively interest in the care of the blind, being one of the trustees of the Perkins Institute in Boston. He was remarkably methodical. He prescribed for himself, with great exactness, the amount of exercise he should take daily, his hours for study and relaxation, the quantity of his food, the weight of his clothing. He was very punctual, and insisted upon that same virtue in his assistants. Yet he was by no means a recluse. He enjoyed the company of friends, and, especially, of his children and grandchildren.

In 1844, Mr. Prescott published a volume of miscellanies, chiefly reprints of his contributions to the "North American Review," and, in the same year, began his third important work, and the last one which he was to complete, the "Conquest of Peru." It was published in 1847. For many years he had been preparing for his "History of Philip II.," destined to be his closing performance, and which he left unfinished at his death. He began to work upon it in 1848; but his eyesight was now, and ever afterward remained so defective, that his progress was necessarily very slow, and his labors were interrupted by more frequent periods of rest and repose. In the spring of 1850, after visiting Washington, where he was welcomed with every mark of respect by President Taylor and other high officials, he sailed for Liverpool, accompanied by the last and most distinguished of his private secretaries, John Foster Kirk, who has recently superintended the publication of a new edition of Mr. Prescott's works, and who is himself not unknown to fame as an author. In England, the great historian met with that cordial reception which is so sure to await the American man of letters, in our mother country, the attention paid him including a presentation at court, and the conferring of the degree of D. C. L. by Oxford University. With the exception of a brief ten days

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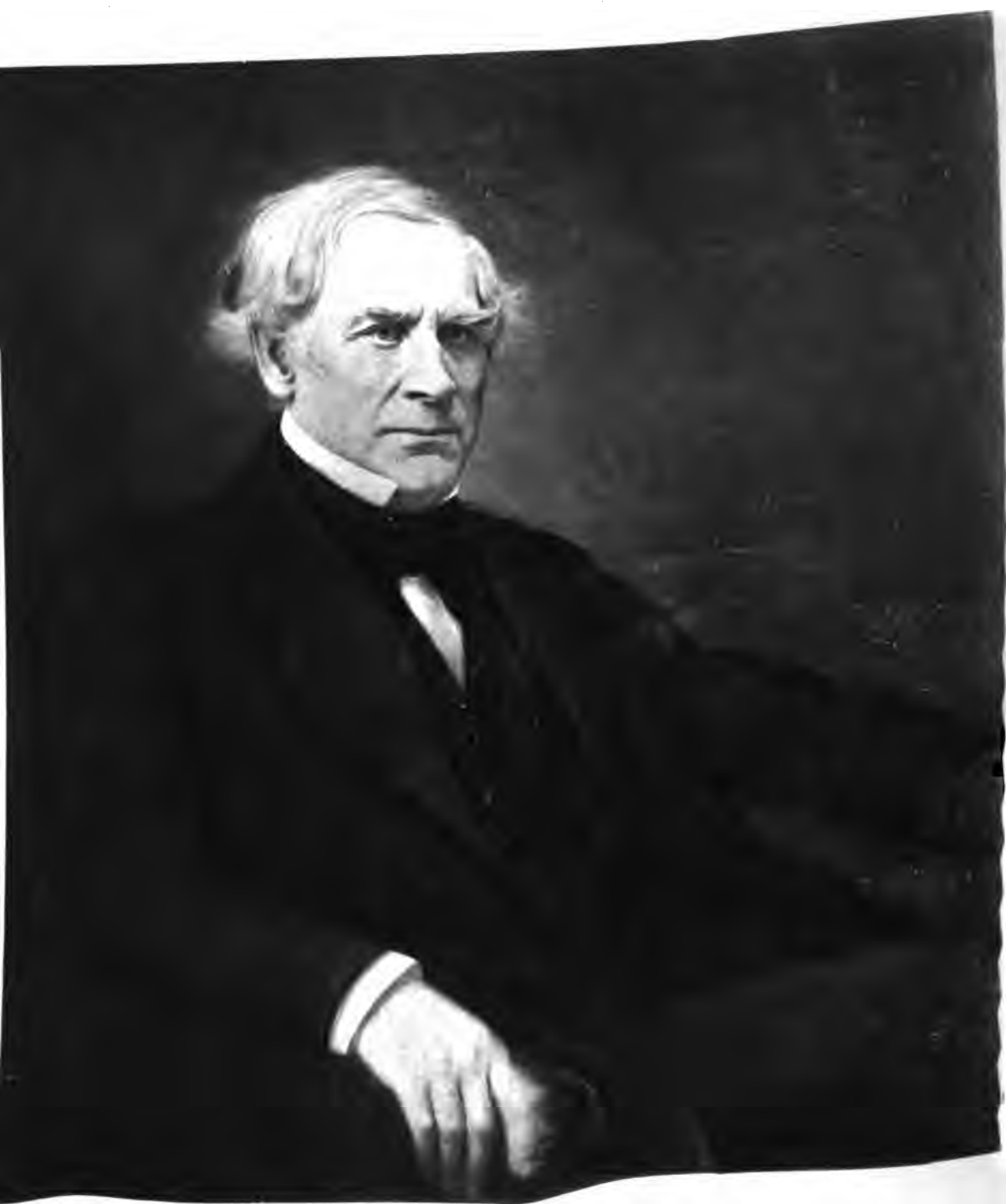
trip to the Continent, Mr. Prescott spent the entire four months of his sojourn abroad in a constant round of entertainments, such as has never fallen to the lot of any other unofficial American. He returned to America in September.

Two volumes of his "Philip II." were issued in 1855, and, in the following year, he published a continuation of Robertson's "Charles V." Early in the year 1858, he suffered an apoplectic stroke, from which he recovered sufficiently to prepare one more volume of "Philip II." for the press; but a second attack, on January 28, 1859, was the cause of the sudden though painless death of him who, for candor of judgment, strict impartiality, and limpid purity and engaging sweetness of style, is without a peer among the historical writers of America.





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ROY VAN
ALLEN

THURLOW WEED.

From a portrait by Jared Bradley Flagg [1820-], painted in 1861 for the late Richard Schell, Esq., of New York, who bequeathed it to its present owner, Thurlow Weed Barnes.

THURLOW WEED.



THURLOW WEED was born at Cairo, N. Y., November 15, 1797. He was the son of a man who, though industrious and honest, had the misfortune always to be poor, so that Thurlow had hardly learned his letters at the village school, when he was obliged to shift for himself. At the age of eight he found employment with a blacksmith, at six cents a day, and at various times within the next six years we find him a cabin-boy on a Hudson River sloop, a boy-of-all-work in a tavern, a chore-boy in a printing office, a farmer, a foundry-man, a groom, and a gardener. A pretty hard life for a young lad. Ordinarily such training would produce a vagabond; but Thurlow Weed was stout, strong, and ambitious, and was abundantly endowed by nature with those peculiar talents which were to fit him to become preëminently great as a politician, a controller of caucuses, and a dictator of party nominations. Of the different callings in which he was engaged, that of a printer best suited his fancy, and at that trade he was apprenticed, in 1811, at Onondaga, at a small newspaper office.

He remained in this place about a year, and during that time was a diligent student of the newspapers which came to the office, and, in this way, he gained much useful information which was to compensate him, in some degree, for his lack of a regular education. The sudden disappearance of his master, in 1812, and the consequent suspension of his

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paper, drove the apprentice to the office of another journal, and soon a similar occurrence drove him temporarily back to the foundry. He soon sought for work again at his chosen trade, and found it in Utica; but the proximity of the seat of war on the Canadian frontier moved his patriotic ardor, and he enlisted in the militia. After remaining a short time under arms, he returned to his trade, which he followed in different places as opportunity offered, until 1814, when he again enlisted, marched to Sackett's Harbor, and was promoted to be quartermaster sergeant. After the declaration of peace he once more resumed his trade, and soon began to do a little editorial work. In 1818 he was married, and shortly afterward established a paper of his own at Norwich, N. Y. He presently drifted into politics as a friend and supporter of Governor Clinton; but that eminent statesman's canal policy was not favored at Norwich, and Weed, by advocating it, lost so many of his subscribers, that he discontinued his paper, in 1821, and went to Albany where he worked for a time as a journeyman. He had been appointed, in 1819, as commissioner to take acknowledgment of deeds, and this was the only official appointment which he ever accepted, although during the many years in which he was actively engaged in politics, he obtained many of them for friends through his influence with governors and presidents.

His next venture was the publication of a paper at Manlius, N. Y., which proved unremunerative, and, in November, 1822, he went to Rochester. He arrived there penniless, but soon found a friend in Everard Peck, a book publisher and the proprietor of the *Rochester Telegraph*, who engaged him in the double capacity of journeyman and editor, and this may be justly regarded as the commencement of his successful journalistic career. His salary was small, at first; but he had an assured living, at least. He now became more deeply concerned in national

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politics, favoring the election of John Quincy Adams to the presidency. It may be here remarked that Mr. Weed was personally acquainted with every president, from Monroe to Grant, with the exception of General Jackson and Mr. Polk. Near the close of the year 1823, he went to Albany to report the proceedings of the Legislature for the *Telegraph*, and also to lobby in behalf of a charter for a bank in Rochester. His success was brilliant, and laid the foundation of that extensive political influence which he continued to exert throughout the remainder of his life. He was himself elected to the Legislature, in 1824, and proved an efficient worker; but neither then, nor at any subsequent time was he able to make a public speech.

In 1825, Mr. Weed purchased the *Telegraph*, and his increased responsibilities induced him to decline reelection to the Assembly. A year later, the business had increased so largely, that he took a partner, and about the same time occurred one of the most singular events in the history of our country, and which made Mr. Weed an acknowledged political leader.

In September, 1826, a man named William Morgan, a Freemason, resident at Batavia, N. Y., while preparing for the press a book purporting to be an *exposé* of the secrets of his order, was arrested on some trivial charge. Shortly afterwards he was abducted from the jail by a party of masons, and was never again seen. Several of the abductors of Morgan made confession subsequently, and were punished; but his ultimate fate has ever remained a mystery. Many people, and among them Mr. Weed, after a careful consideration of all the testimony, believed that he was murdered. Some time before the abduction, the manuscript of Morgan's book had been rejected by Mr. Weed, partly because he was friendly toward the Freemasons, and partly because his partner was a member of the order. But upon receipt of the news of Morgan's disappearance, Mr. Weed referred to

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it editorially, in very guarded terms. To his astonishment those subscribers to the *Telegraph*, who were masons, resented the article so deeply, that Mr. Weed, to save the paper from ruin, was obliged to dispose of his half interest to his partner, and withdraw from its management. Subsequently he attempted to obtain editorial positions in other cities, but found all offices closed against him through masonic influence. In the meantime the popular agitation over the affair had become very great, not only in the immediate vicinity of Batavia, but throughout the State. Committees of investigation were formed, and Mr. Weed became very prominent in procuring witnesses, and also established an "anti-masonic" newspaper. In the spring of 1827, public meetings were held and resolutions passed withholding political support from masonic candidates, and so came into being the "Anti-masonic" party, of which Mr. Weed was one of the foremost leaders.

The new party made rapid gains. In the presidential election of 1828, its adherents gave their support to John Quincy Adams; but four years later they put William Wirt in nomination, opposing both Jackson and Clay, and they succeeded in carrying the State of Vermont, whose seven electoral votes were given to Mr. Wirt. Mr. Weed was very active in the affairs of his party until it quietly passed out of existence, in 1833. In 1829 he was a second time elected to the New York Assembly. He served only one term, and never again accepted an elective office for himself. In 1830 he removed to Albany, where he established the *Evening Journal*, of which paper he retained the editorship for thirty-three years. It was founded in the anti-masonic interest; but after that short-lived absurdity had run its course, the *Evening Journal* became a Whig organ, and Mr. Weed an active Whig politician. Under his able management, his paper attained a large circulation, and ultimately became one of the leading dailies of the State. On the question of

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slavery Mr. Weed occupied a conservative position, opposing the system generally; but never favoring the radical abolitionists.

Mr. Weed's caustic editorials sometimes involved him in suits for libel, and among them were several of those famous ones in which the novelist Cooper was the plaintiff. He made five visits to Europe, the first one in 1843, and the last in 1871, after age and infirmity had incapacitated him for active business. He was among the earliest to espouse the principles of the new Republican party in 1856, and with that party he acted during the remainder of his life. Upon the breaking out of the Rebellion, the whole weight of his influence was exerted in favor of the Union. Perhaps his most valuable service to his country during those perilous times was his interview with James Gordon Bennett, editor of the *New York Herald*, in which, by argument and entreaty, he prevailed upon the great democratic editor, whose sympathies had leaned Southward, henceforth to give the aid of his powerful journal to the administration, in its efforts to crush disloyalty. When it was deemed necessary that certain citizens of well-known high standing should visit Europe to counteract the influence of the rebel emissaries, Mr. Weed offered his services in this unofficial mission and they were accepted by the government. He spent some seven months in England and France, and so valuable were his efforts to overcome the feeling of hostility in those countries towards the North, that, upon his return to America, in June, 1862, he was presented with the freedom of the city of New York.

In 1863 Mr. Weed resigned the editorship of the *Albany Evening Journal*, and, at the same time, removed to New York. In 1867 he became editor of the *New York Commercial Advertiser*; but a sunstroke in the following year rendered him unable to continue the close application to business which he had maintained for so long a period. A

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trip to Europe and a temporary residence at the South failing to restore him to his usual health, he withdrew, finally, from journalism in 1869. His closing years were passed very pleasantly in the society of his daughters and grandchildren, and although toward the last he became nearly blind, he never lost his keen interest in public affairs. He was very kind to the poor, never turning away an applicant for assistance, though frequently being imposed upon by unworthy persons. Inseparably connected with his name are those of William H. Seward and Horace Greeley, who were for many years closely allied as earnest workers in the field of politics. Mr. Weed outlived them both. He died at his city residence, November 22, 1882, a few days after he had received the kindly messages from many of his friends upon his eighty-fifth birthday.





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JOHN A. DIX.

From the life size painting by Anna M. Lea in the Governor's
Room at the New York City Hall.

JOHN ADAMS DIX.



IF any man attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot." John A. Dix, who issued this famous command, was born in Boscawen, N. H., July 24, 1798. His father, one of the prominent men of the village, had a good library, and the young man's opportunities for study were much better than those of the average country youth of his day. When about eleven he was sent to a school at Salisbury; he afterward attended the Phillips Academy at Exeter for a year, and, in 1811, he was sent to a Jesuit college at Montreal. During the year spent at the latter institution, the foundation was laid of that thorough knowledge of the Latin classics which was the distinguishing characteristic of his education. The breaking out of war, in 1812, compelled him to quit Canada before completing his course, and he passed several months in Boston under the care of private tutors; but he had an earnest desire to enter the army, and would have enlisted as a private soldier, had not his father, now a major of Regulars, obtained for him an appointment as cadet. After serving several months at Baltimore in his father's battalion, he was commissioned ensign, not yet having attained his fifteenth year, and joined the army at Sackett's Harbor in April, 1813.

For several years after the close of the war, he was engaged in garrison duty, and found opportunity to continue

JOHN ADAMS DIX.

his studies. In March, 1819, he was appointed aide-de-camp to Major-General Brown, with the rank of major. His position as an officer upon the staff of the commander-in-chief gave him an entrée into the finest Washington society, and about this time he began to be interested in the political agitations of the day, and to look for a suitable opportunity to resign his commission, and commence a civil career, in which he thought he could arrive at greater distinction than he could hope to do in the army in time of peace. He also read law with Attorney-General Wirt, and was admitted to the bar.

In 1826, Major Dix was appointed as a special diplomatic messenger to Denmark, and after returning from his European journey, which was likewise his wedding tour, he was stationed at Fortress Monroe. He was promoted to a captaincy; but, in 1828, he resigned his commission to settle at Cooperstown, upon an estate which was the gift of his father-in-law, and soon began legal practice. His brief career at the bar was unimportant, except as it opened the way to his more extended career as a politician and statesman. He had embraced the principles of the Democratic party, and he entered public life as a supporter of General Jackson. In 1830, having been appointed Attorney-General of New York, he removed to Albany, in which city he continued to reside for the following twelve years, being one of the shining lights among that famous coterie of democratic politicians known as the "Albany Regency." In 1833 he was made Secretary of State by Governor Marcy, and this office conjointly with that of Superintendent of Public Instruction, he held until January, 1839, when, upon the accession of the Whig party to power, with Governor Seward, Mr. Dix retired for a while to private life.

In 1841, he became editor of a short-lived periodical, called the "Northern Light," and, in the same year, he was elected to the Legislature. 1843 and a portion of the following year

JOHN ADAMS DIX.

were very pleasantly spent with his family, in Madeira and the south of Europe. In 1845, he was elected United States Senator. He advocated the passage of the Wilmot proviso, restricting slavery in the newly acquired Mexican territory, thereby rendering himself obnoxious to the Southern portion of his party. He deprecated the threats of disunion made by Southern leaders; but, at the same time, disclaimed all connection with the abolitionists, fully recognizing the right of the Southern States to deal as they chose with their private concerns. He reluctantly accepted the Free-Soil nomination for Governor of New York in 1848; but was defeated by Hamilton Fish. His senatorial term ended with the close of the Polk administration, and he shortly afterward took up his residence in New York City. He now devoted much of his time to the business of reuniting the divided Democratic party, and was largely instrumental in bringing about the reconciliation between the free-soil and pro-slavery wings, which resulted in the success of that party in Mr. Pierce's election in 1852.

Mr. Dix naturally expected to hold office under the new administration, and he had indeed received assurances to that effect from Mr. Pierce; but the intrigues of his political enemies forced him into the background, where, with the exception of a few weeks' tenure of the New York sub-treasury, in 1853, he remained for some seven years, or, until the closing months of President Buchanan's administration. During this period he was engaged chiefly in railroad management and foreign travel. In the early part of 1860 great frauds were brought to light in the New York Post-Office, and the postmaster being removed, Mr. Dix was appointed in his place. By his judicious management he brought order out of chaos, and he astonished the leaders of his party by refusing to allow them to assess the employés in his office for campaign expenses.

Mr. Dix deeply deplored the sectional animosity engendered

JOHN ADAMS DIX.

by the slavery discussions. He favored making large concessions to the slaveholders, for the sake of peace and unity; but when the South raised the hand of treason against the flag under which he had served faithfully for sixteen years, he loyally came to its defence. In December, 1860, Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, vacated his office, leaving behind him depleted vaults and accounts in confusion, and the perplexed President made the fortunate choice of Mr. Dix to fill the important position during the few remaining weeks of his administration. The new Secretary was the guest of Mr. Buchanan at the White House while he remained in Washington. The value of his services to the nation during the brief period in which he had charge of its finances can hardly be overestimated, and it may fairly be said that by his wisdom and sterling integrity he saved the government from becoming hopelessly bankrupt. One of his first cares was to save the few remaining revenue cutters in Southern waters that had not yet been stolen by the revolted States. In his instructions to the agent who was directed to take charge of the cutters at Mobile and Galveston occurred the sentence which stands at the head of this article. The dispatch was sent upon his own authority, for he well knew that Mr. Buchanan would not have dared to allow him to issue it, had he known of it beforehand. Unfortunately the message was intercepted, and the cutters fell into the hands of the rebels; but the ringing words of patriotism, instantly taken up by the people of the North, acted like the torch applied to the powder magazine; the Northern heart was fired, and the hosts of freedom waited only for proper leaders, to go forth and conquer the monster of treason and slavery.

Shortly after retiring from the Treasury Mr. Dix became president of the Union Defence Committee which was formed in New York as a part of the general uprising of the loyal North when Sumter was fired upon. Then came President

JOHN ADAMS DIX.

Lincoln's call for troops, and John A. Dix was commissioned by the Governor of New York as major-general of volunteers. In June he was commissioned major-general of regulars, and in July succeeded General Banks in command at Baltimore. By his promptness and decision he kept that turbulent city under control, and aided materially in saving Maryland for the Union. In May, 1862, he was transferred to Fortress Monroe, and held command of that post for about a year. It was not a desirable change, but, like a good soldier he submitted to the orders, ill-judged perhaps, of his superiors, and even refused the governorship of New York in order to remain at his post. While at Fortress Monroe he made a poetic translation of the "*Dies Iræ*" which is considered to be the finest English rendering of that magnificent Latin hymn.

In June, 1863, General Dix received orders to make a demonstration against Richmond, and the effect of this movement was to occupy a large body of rebels who would otherwise have reinforced Lee, who was then engaged in the Gettysburg campaign. After the disgraceful draft riots which occurred in New York in the following month, General Dix was appointed to the command of the military department of the East, and he at once proceeded to enforce the draft in conformity with the laws of the United States, which the lax State authorities refused to do. He held his department command until the close of the war, when, not being desirous of remaining in the army, he was relieved. In December, 1864, he issued an order authorizing the commanders of troops on the frontier to pursue marauding rebels into Canada,—one body of them had plundered the town of St. Albans; but this order was not approved by the President. Not long afterward General Dix was sent to Canada for a personal conference with the authorities there, and during his journey he visited the college in Montreal where he had received part of his education, being welcomed with dis-

JOHN ADAMS DIX.

tinguished honors. In common with the great majority of "war Democrats" he supported Mr. Lincoln in 1864.

After retiring to private life, General Dix again engaged in business pursuits, devoting much of his attention to the affairs of the Union Pacific Railroad, of which he was the President. In November, 1866, after having filled for a short time the position of naval officer of the Port of New York, he was appointed Minister to France, and he resided at the Imperial Court until June, 1869, after which he spent some three years in retirement. In 1872, he received from the Emperor of Russia a decoration, which his characteristic modesty, however, prevented him from ever wearing. In November of that year General Dix was elected Governor of New York.

With a single term of two years as Chief Executive of the Empire State, the public career of this eminent statesman, soldier, and scholar was brought to a close. Despite his advanced age, he was now seventy-five, he conducted the affairs of his high office with such ability as to leave no ground for criticism, and yet, the voters of the State, with a fickleness hard to account for, rejected him in 1874. His remaining years were spent in domestic quietness and ease; a fitting close for a well-spent life. He died at his city residence in New York, April 21, 1879, at the age of eighty-one.





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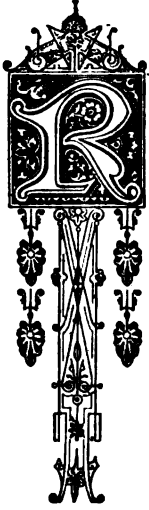


NOV 18 1864

RUFUS CHOATE.

From life.

RUFUS CHOATE.



RUFUS CHOATE was born on the 1st of October, 1799, in that section of the town of Ipswich, Mass., which has since become the town of Essex. He was a healthy, active boy, who, in due time, proved to be an industrious worker on his father's farm, and it soon became apparent that he was gifted with a more than ordinary intellect. In his tenth year he was reading works which usually interest only those of mature age, and he was allowed to commence his Latin studies. In January, 1815, he was sent to Hampton Academy in New Hampshire, and in the ensuing summer he entered Dartmouth College, one of the youngest members of his class. He was a most diligent student, and took but little part in the sports and games of his classmates; yet his singularly attractive manners endeared him to all, and no one regarded him with envy though he excelled all in scholarship. Thoroughness in all things was his ambition, and even thus early in life he formed the determination to which he constantly adhered, never to do anything by halves. He graduated with high honors in 1819; but remained at Dartmouth for another year in the capacity of tutor. He began to study law at the Cambridge Law School, and, in 1821, went to Washington, where he studied for about a year with Attorney-General Wirt. After further preparation in his native town and at Salem; he was, in 1823, admitted to the bar.

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Mr. Choate's success in his profession was not at first such as would indicate that he was destined to become, next to Webster, the greatest of New England's lawyers. Five years of manful struggle with discouragement ensued before he felt his reputation sufficiently well established to leave Danvers, where he began his practice, and open an office in the shire-town of Salem, in the midst of his older and more experienced rivals. He did not, however, lack personal popularity during these years, for he was twice chosen to represent Danvers in the General Court, once in the House, and once in the Senate. After his removal to Salem, his fame rose rapidly, until he became the leading criminal lawyer of the county. He very rarely failed to secure the acquittal of a client. Every case which Mr. Choate undertook was handled with the utmost care; his plea before a country justice was as earnest and as eloquent as if made in the presence of the silk-robed judges of the Supreme Court, and this unvarying faithfulness to the interests of his clients was the secret of his remarkable success.

Politically, Mr. Choate was a National Republican, or Whig, and, as the candidate of that party, he was elected, in 1830, by a handsome majority to represent the South Essex District in Congress. He prepared himself for his duties as a legislator by an exhaustive investigation of the great questions of political economy which he was to aid in deciding, and entered the arena of debate thoroughly equipped. Though not a frequent speaker, he always won the attention of the House by the charms of his eloquence. In 1834, he resigned his seat, to which he had been reelected, and having removed to Boston, he resumed his legal practice with a reputation fully established. Six or seven years passed away and Mr. Choate reached the full vigor of his manhood. He had married while yet a young lawyer at Danvers, and he now had a family of two daughters and a son; the son subsequently lost his life through his devotion

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to his country in the war of the Rebellion. Mr. Choate during his hours of leisure, found his chief delight in reading. His love for books amounted almost to a mania; a book store or a public library was to him a source of the keenest pleasure. His own house was cumbered in every nook and corner with rare volumes.

When Daniel Webster resigned his seat in the United States Senate, in 1841, to enter the Cabinet, all eyes were turned toward Rufus Choate as his successor, and after much hesitancy he accepted a nomination from a sense of duty, and was, of course, elected. His speeches in the Senate were masterpieces of oratory. With regard to those issues upon which the opinion of the nation was divided geographically, he uniformly pursued a course of conciliation, taking pattern after his illustrious contemporaries, Clay and Webster. He took an active part in the presidential canvas of 1844, in favor of the election of the Whig candidate, Henry Clay. His senatorial term expired in March, 1845. Mr. Choate was a member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution from its establishment, in 1846, until 1855, when he withdrew, owing to a disagreement with the other members of the Board. During the campaign of 1848, he made several brilliant speeches in behalf of General Taylor. About this time he was offered a professorship at Harvard, and also a seat on the Massachusetts Supreme Bench; but both honors were declined in view of the overwhelming volume and great importance of his legal practice, both civil and criminal; in the latter branch he was now without a peer. In several capital cases which were entrusted to him, he convinced the jury of the prisoners' innocence, although the whole community were clamoring for conviction.

In June, 1850, Mr. Choate sailed for Europe, to enjoy a brief vacation, the only one he had allowed himself for many years. He was abroad only about three months, but his keen powers of observation enabled him to see far more

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of persons and places of interest in England and upon the Continent than an ordinary tourist would have done. Few Americans have visited the Old World as well prepared by reading and study to appreciate her historic scenes, as was Rufus Choate. He tells us in his journal that he "ran this way and that, like a boy, seeking everywhere, and finding everywhere some name and place made classical by history."

In the Whig National Convention of 1852, Mr. Choate made an earnest, though, of course, a fruitless effort, to secure the nomination of his revered friend, Webster, for the presidency. Webster was rejected by his party, and his death, which followed a few months later, left Mr. Choate the leader of the Massachusetts Bar. The two friends chanced to be opposed to each other in the last case argued by Mr. Webster. The case was decided adversely to Mr. Choate's client, and established the validity of the claims of Charles Goodyear to the invention which made him famous. In 1853, Mr. Choate was appointed Attorney-General of the Commonwealth; but relinquished the office voluntarily at the end of a single year's service. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1853.

Upon the breaking up of the Whig party, Mr. Choate did not see fit to follow the majority of his old associates into the Republican Party, but decided to give his influence, and to cast his vote, in 1856, in favor of Mr. Buchanan. Whatever his motive may have been, for thus aiding in the election of the representative of the party he had always antagonized, it was not a desire for office, as he peremptorily declined any reward for his services from President Buchanan.

In addition to his professional fame, Mr. Choate acquired an enviable reputation as a public speaker upon general topics. Among his more celebrated efforts, as a man of letters, may be mentioned his lecture on the "Romance of the Sea," first delivered in 1836, his eulogies on President Harrison and Daniel Webster, and his address at the opening

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of the Peabody Institute at Danvers in 1854. In all of his orations he displayed a marvellous amount of erudition combined with keen logic and electrifying eloquence. Even his addresses to juries, few, if any of which, unfortunately, have been preserved entire, were finished literary productions.

A dissolution of the American Union was looked upon by Mr. Choate as the greatest of possible calamities. Troublous times were close at hand, even on the threshold; but his eyes were not to behold them. His life-work closed in the midst of the short delusive calm, just before the bursting of the fury of the storm, when most men, at least at the North, were flattering themselves with the false hope that there were no further dangers of sectional strife. The spring of 1859 found him too ill to attend to business, and he determined to attempt a sea voyage. Accompanied by his son, he took passage for England in June; but his symptoms became so alarming, that it was thought prudent to land at Halifax. Filial care, medical skill, and the kind attentions of a hospitable people, proved unavailing, and, after lingering two weeks, he died July 13, 1859.





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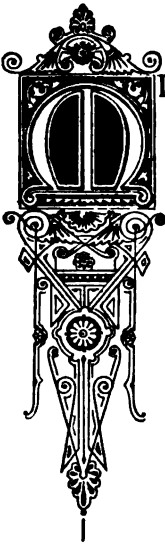


ROY VON
SÜSSER
VON SÜSSER

MILLARD FILLMORE.

By G. P. A. Healy. Corcoran Gallery, Washington.

MILLARD FILLMORE.



MILLARD FILLMORE was born January 7, 1800, in the present town of Summerhill, then an almost unbroken wilderness, and still the smallest town of Cayuga County, N. Y. His parents were uneducated and poor, and having the misfortune to lose their farm through a defect in the title, they removed to another part of the county where Millard passed his early boyhood with only the poorest advantages for his intellectual development. When fourteen years old, it was deemed best that he should learn a trade, and he was accordingly placed in a clothier's mill some hundred miles distant from his home. After submitting to the indignities of a cruel master for four months, he made his way back through the forest, on foot, and was soon afterward apprenticed to a wool-carder in his own village. He worked diligently at his trade four or five years, and, fortunately, gained access to a small library, every volume of which he read with attention. He was blessed with a comely exterior, and, naturally of a courteous disposition, he cultivated the graces of a gentleman to the best of his ability. Happily this young man, so willing to help himself, found a friend and assistant in a man of some wealth, a judge named Wood. Pleased with Fillmore's studious habits, the judge not only took him into his office to study law, but loaned him considerable sums of money for his maintenance, as well.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

At twenty-one, having remained with Judge Wood two years, Millard Fillmore went to Buffalo, where he taught school and continued his legal studies; and, in 1823, he was admitted to practice in the Court of Common Pleas. He was too diffident to begin the exercise of his untried powers at Buffalo, and so modestly opened his first office at Aurora, which continued to be his home for seven years, and where, in 1826, he was married to Abigail Powers. He steadily gained in reputation as a lawyer, being admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court as attorney in 1827 and as counsellor in 1829. In the latter year he entered public life as an anti-masonic member of the New York Assembly, soon joining the Whigs with the rest of his party. He was twice reelected, and became quite prominent among the Whig minority; so much so that it was frequently remarked concerning some proposed legislation, "if Fillmore says it is right, we will vote for it." He was especially active in advocating a law to abolish imprisonment for debt, and of all his services to the people of his State, this was without doubt the most useful. In 1830 he again changed his residence, going to Buffalo, and becoming a member of a law firm in that city, with which he was connected for the following seventeen years. In 1832 he was elected to Congress, taking his seat in the midst of the excitement which followed the removal of the deposits by President Jackson. He attracted no remarkable degree of attention, and retired at the close of a single term.

After two years spent in private life, he was again elected to Congress, in which he now served three successive terms, with constantly increasing popularity. He was no orator; consequently his congressional record was not a brilliant one; but in the committee room he had no superior. As the chairman of the ways and means committee of the House in the Twenty-Seventh Congress, he bore an important part in the preparation of the high tariff act of 1842. At the

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Whig National Convention of 1843 his name was prominently mentioned in connection with the Vice-presidency; but the choice fell upon Mr. Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, who shared with Clay the mortification of defeat at the polls. A year later Mr. Fillmore was defeated in a hotly contested election for the New York governorship, owing to the third party action of the abolitionists. In the fall of 1847 he was chosen State Comptroller. He now relinquished his private business, and, in January, 1848, removed to Albany, to devote his entire attention to the management of the financial affairs of the State. A few months afterward the Whigs placed his name on their presidential ticket with that of General Taylor, and in the fall election of 1848 that ticket was successful. Mr. Fillmore continued to perform the duties of the Comptrollership with strict fidelity until February, 1849, and on March 5th of that year he was inaugurated Vice-President of the United States.

Mr. Fillmore was called upon to preside over the deliberations of the United States Senate at a time of unprecedented excitement over the question of slavery. The settlers of California had just adopted a free-state constitution, and were seeking admission to the Union. This, the slave-holders proclaimed their intention to prevent, if possible, or, failing to do so, to withdraw and form a Southern Confederacy. Under such circumstances, calm discussion was almost an impossibility, and, in view of this fact, Mr. Fillmore announced his intention to use his authority in preserving order and decorum during the senatorial debates, thereby reversing the rule of action established by Vice-President Calhoun in 1826, and adhered to by his successors. Mr. Fillmore was without previous experience as a presiding officer, but proved himself in every way fitted for his position, winning the respect and approbation of all by the urbanity of his manners, the evenness of his temper, and the impartiality of his rulings.

On the 9th of July, 1850, President Taylor died, after an

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exceedingly short illness, and Mr. Fillmore quietly took the oath of office as his successor on the following day. Among the first of his official acts was the approval of the Fugitive Slave Law, that hideous blot upon our country's record. It is still remembered to his disparagement, while his more meritorious deeds have passed into oblivion. In return for this humiliating concession by the North, the South sullenly agreed to the admission of California, without slavery, and to the abolition of the traffic in human beings in the District of Columbia. In April, 1851, President Fillmore issued a proclamation warning the citizens not to engage in expeditions against the Island of Cuba. It was disregarded by a few reckless Americans, who were captured by the Spanish authorities and shot. In December, 1851, Louis Kossuth, the leader of the Hungarian revolutionists arrived in the United States, and for about six months he was lionized in various parts of the country, principally by those politicians who sought to flatter voters of foreign birth. He was courteously received by President Fillmore, who, however, very properly declined to commit the government to the support of the Hungarians in a war against Austria, with which the United States was at peace. Kossuth finally left the country, in July, 1852, under an assumed name. In December, 1851, the greater portion of the library of Congress was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Fillmore's attitude toward slavery was not pleasing to the Northern Whigs, the majority of whom opposed his renomination in 1852. His name headed the list, however, upon the first ballot at the National Convention, his support coming mainly from the South; but he could not obtain the requisite majority, and upon the fifty-third ballot, General Scott was nominated, only to meet with defeat by Franklin Pierce, his democratic opponent. On the 4th of March, 1853, Mr. Fillmore's term of office expired, and he became once more a plain American citizen. He held no public

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office during the remaining twenty-one years of his life. The loss of his wife, and other domestic afflictions induced him to seek relief in travel, and, in 1854, he made a tour of the South, and the following year travelled in Europe. The Whig party went to pieces after its defeat, in 1852, and, in 1855, Mr. Fillmore became identified with the American or Know-Nothing party, the aim of which was to exclude from participation in the affairs of the government, all persons of alien birth, who were not in sympathy with the spirit of free American Institutions. It was during his absence abroad that he received and accepted the presidential nomination of this party, and in the national election of 1856, he received the eight electoral votes of the State of Maryland. Mr. Fillmore remarried in 1858. He enjoyed the universal esteem of his neighbors in Buffalo, where he made his home after leaving the White House. He lived to behold slavery and its blighting influences swept from the land; but was not privileged to claim any part of that good work as his own. His death occurred at Buffalo, March 8, 1874.



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